

An Iranian Lawmaker Underscored That the Supreme National Security Council, Foreign Ministry, and the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran Prepared Tehran's Response to a Recent Resolution by the IAEA

# IRAN NEWS

TEDPIX, the Main Index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), Gained 4,437 Points to 1.409m on Monday And According to the Report, Over 8.804b Securities Worth 40.723 Trillion rials (About \$140.4m) Were Traded at the TSE

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## IRGC Bolstering Forces In Northwest Iran

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) says it is bolstering its forces in Iran's northwestern region to combat separatist groups and firmly confront terrorist outfits in the restive area.

The Hamzeh Seyed al-Shohada Base of the IRGC Ground Force said in a statement published by Iran's Tasnim news agency on Sunday that the IRGC was bolstering its forces in the country's northwest to deal with movements of separatist terrorist groups in the region.

"Following the movements of villains and anti-Iran separatist terrorist groups in the northwest of the country, and the creation of villainy and insecurity in some areas, the Hamzeh Seyed al-Shohada Base of the IRGC Ground Force, by strengthening its own forces within the scope of the mission's geography and taking advantage of the cooperation of the valiant local people, embarks on resolutely confronting insecurity factors in the region," the statement said.

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## Supporting Terrorists, Rioters Not to Benefit of U.S., Europe

TEHRAN (PressTV) - President Ebrahim Raisi has taken the United States and some European countries to task for supporting terrorists and rioters who are trying to disrupt the country's security, saying such support would not be to their benefit.

"The enemy, which has been wounded by the Islamic Revolution, is using a hybrid war to disrupt the country's advances by undermining its security, economy, education, and production," Raisi said while addressing a cabinet session on Sunday.

Referring to the explicit support lent to terrorists and rioters in Iran by the United States, France and some other European countries, the Iranian president warned, "Supporting terrorism definitely would not be to their benefit."

He also tasked the Foreign Ministry to use diplomatic and legal channels to take necessary measures for thwarting and countering seditions designed and pursued from abroad.

"Dealing with the rioters in a firm manner and preventing further damage to people's lives and property by terrorists and rioters is a public demand, which must be met immediately," he said.

Raisi added that security, judicial and police authorities shoulder a major responsibility for protecting people's security and safeguarding the country's assets.

## IAEA Anti-Iran Resolution Meant To Damage Tehran-Agency Ties



### IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Foreign Ministry spokesman says the UN nuclear agency adopted the "politically-motivated" anti-Tehran resolution as the country has "the most transparent" peaceful nuclear program.

Speaking at a press conference on Monday, Nasser Kanaani said "the politically-motivated resolution was issued while Iran has the most transparent peaceful nuclear program" in terms of the number of facilities under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) compared to other countries and the number of inspections its nuclear activities have undergone by the IAEA.

He stressed that the resolution was enforced after the U.S. and the three European countries exerted pressure on the agency's Board of Governors.

The spokesman did not give more details on Iran's response to the resolution, saying the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran would declare the details when necessary.

Earlier, Kanaani had said Iran took the first step in responding to the resolution.

"In response to the latest action of the three European countries and the United States, namely the passing of a resolution against Iran in the agency's Board of Governors, a number of measures were put on the agenda of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran and their implementation was carried out in the enrichment complexes of Martyr Ahmadi in Natanz and Martyr Alimohammadi complex in Fordow in the presence of the IAEA's inspectors," he said.

That came as Director of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran Mohammad Eslami said earlier in the day that the Islamic Republic will give a "firm response" to the anti-Iran resolution.

Noting that the resolution aims to mount pressure on Iran, Kanaani said on Sunday that Tehran won't bow to pressure and that Iran will continue its peaceful nuclear program in accordance with its needs and in compliance with its international obligations.

Also on Sunday, he slammed the "instrumental use" of the international organizations against independent nations, saying that "has become a norm" of the foreign policy of 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.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Kanaani condemned a resolution approved by the United Nations General Assembly's Third Committee on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic, stressing that "the politicizing of the human rights issue is not constructive at all".

He further said the resolution that was proposed by certain Western countries, including Germany, is politically-motivated. Noting that German has a dark history of violating human rights, the spokesman said, "The German government is not in a position to take such actions against independent countries, including Iran."

In response to a question about the adoption of the resolution on the situation of human rights in Iran in the United Nations, Kanaani said, "Politicizing the issue of human rights is not productive in any way, and using human rights as a tool cannot help advance the values and goals of the international community in relation to human rights."

"Any efforts of countries, especially a certain number of Western countries, including Germany, in connection with raising Iran's human rights issues in the UN Human Rights Council, is an action with political motives and approach. We condemn these actions. We believe that the political approach to human rights is unconstructive and will not contribute to the promotion of human rights in any country or global community," he added.

Countries are present in the United Nations Human Rights Council and some of them are permanent members of the Security Council that have committed many crimes against humanity and have endangered the peace and security of humanity throughout history, the Iranian diplomat underlined.

In response to a question about the aggression of the Zionist regime in Syria, the Iranian diplomat said, "The silence of the international forums is unfortunately one of the reasons for the continued illegal attacks of the Zionist regime and the actions of this regime against the territorial integrity of Syria."

"Any aggression of the Zionist regime against Syria and violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country is definitely a clear and gross violation of international regulations. We condemn this aggression. International assemblies and the United Nations and the Security Council must react seriously to this issue, and in this connection, all the worlds are definitely responsible and must fulfill their responsibilities," he added.

"Unfortunately, the Syrian people have been victims of illegal actions and aggressions of the Zionist regime for many years, and in this regard, we support any action of the Syrian government to protect itself and protect the security of the people of this country," Kanaani noted.

The Iranian foreign ministry spokesman also spoke about the actions of terrorist groups in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region against Iran, saying that Iran expects that there will be no threat to the security of the Islamic Republic of Iran from the territory of Iraq and that the territory of Iraq will not be used as a place of threat against the Islamic Republic.

"Unfortunately, it did not happen despite the repeated promises that we have received from the Iraqi government officials and the Iraqi Kurdistan Region officials, and as a result, the Islamic Republic takes action based on its legal rights to protect the security of its borders and citizens," he added.

## Several EU States Keen To Have Economic Ties With Iran

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iranian Deputy foreign minister for economic diplomacy announcing that some European countries are willing to have economic relations with Iran, asked concerned officials to implement the reached understandings, and agreements with them.

Headed by Mehdi Safari, a session of Headquarters to Coordinate Foreign Economic Relations, titled 'The Latest Status of Iran's Economic Relations with Latin America' was held in the presence of the headquarter members and the managers of the concerned organizations.

In the session Safari referred to the existing potentials in Latin America, highlighting the need for planning to take maximum advantage of those possibilities, expressing hope that the required arrangements among the entire involved sectors will be made as soon as possible.

Among the needs of that region, that the Islamic Republic of Iran can provide, the deputy foreign minister referred to petrochemical products, petroleum, agricultural products, medicines and medical facilities, handicrafts and engineering services.

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## Iran Steel Production Up 16% in 7 Months yr/yr

TEHRAN (MNA) - Production of steel in Iran has risen 16 percent in the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-October 22), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, the Iranian Steel Producers Association (ISPA) announced.

According to the ISPA's released data, Iran has produced 18.268 million tons of steel in the seven-month period.

Meanwhile, as recently announced by the World Steel Association (WSA), production of crude steel in Iran rose 9.8 percent in the first nine months of 2022, as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

The WSA data put the country's nine-month crude steel production at 22.2 million tons.

The report shows that Iran's crude steel output has also increased by 26.7 percent in September compared to the same month in 2021, reaching 2.7 million tons.

The world's 64 steel producers managed to produce 1,405,200,000 tons of steel in January-September 2022, 4.3 percent less than the figure for the previous year's same period.

Iran has maintained its place as the world's 10th biggest steel producer during the mentioned nine months, according to the WSA data.

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## Grossi Comments on Iran Nuclear Program

TEHRAN (MNA) - The Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said that the Agency has no information to show that Iran is developing a nuclear weapons program.

When asked how close he thought Tehran was to making a nuclear bomb, Grossi said in an interview aired on Sunday, "At the current level of production of this enriched uranium, Iran has accumulated already enough material to have more than one device, if they chose to do that. But we don't have any information that would indicate that Iran has a nuclear weapon program at the moment."

He was also asked if we had reached the point of no return with Iran and whether it was time to admit the country a nuclear power and said, "No, we haven't reached that point." "But we need to work very hard so we don't get there," he concluded., according to TASS news agency.

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# President Felicitates Tokayev on Re-Election as Kazakh President

TEHRAN (MNA) - President Ebrahim Raisi sent a congratulatory message to Kassym-Jomart Tokayev to felicitate him on being re-elected as the president of Kazakhstan.

Raisi expressed hope that with the help of the joint efforts of the two countries' officials, Tehran and Astana will witness the expansion and deepening of relations in all fields as in the past.

Kazakhstan's incumbent president Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has been re-elected as the leader of the Central Asian country. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev secured a second term in Sunday's snap election, winning 81.31% of the vote, the central Asian nation's Central Election Commission said on Monday.



monetary discipline of the country's banking network.

The President also urged the central bank to speed up the facilitation of monetary and banking relations with other countries, to seriously pursue the removal of the monopoly of the dollar from the country's economy.

Raisi emphasized: "The output of the actions and performance of the central bank and other economic institutions of the government should be in the direction of economic stability, investment security, and support for production and employment."

The President also said: "Economic stability, investment security and support for production and employment will not happen with resolutions and people should feel it in practice."

## Those Seeking to Spread Despair Want to Disrupt Economic System

**TEHRAN (IP) –President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi pointed to recent riots in the country, saying that those seeking to spread despair want to disrupt the economic system and worry public opinion.**

The 62nd session of the Central Bank's ordinary and extraordinary assembly was held on Sunday morning with the presence of President Raisi.

In this meeting, Ali Salehabadi, the President of the Central Bank (CBI), presented a report on the financial performance of the year 1400 as well as the financial indicators of the year 1401.

After listening to this report, the President mentioned the decreasing trend of the inflation rate, the increase in exports, the collection of the country's foreign exchange revenues, the decreasing trend of dollar rate fluctuations, the decreasing trend of liquidity growth, the increase of net foreign assets, as well as the preservation and strengthening of the country's foreign exchange reserves, adding: "The continuation of these measures will reassure the people as well as the economic actors."

In this meeting, the central bank was also obliged to seriously follow up on the issue of overdrafts by some banks, which has affected the financial and

## Missile Power Above Global Level

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC)'s Aerospace Division says Iran possesses global-level drone power and is now a pioneer in missile technology.

Brigadier General Amirali Hajizadeh was speaking in a Sunday ceremony, saying that Iran stands on par with global powers in terms of unmanned aerial vehicles, and its achievements in this field have challenged the world's powerful armies.

"There are many other [military] achievements, which will be unveiled in due time; for example, the ability to hit enemy [targets] at a distance of 1,500 kilometers," the IRGC general said.

Hajizadeh added that in terms of missile technology, Iran stands above the global level, adding, "The news of the advanced hypersonic ballistic missile, which was broken recently ... and is able to maneuver outside the atmosphere is nothing new, but was just announced recently."

He added that Iran's hypersonic missile represents a generational growth spurt, and the enemies will not be able to come up with a new technology to counter it for many decades to come.

Hajizadeh announced the development of Iran's homegrown hypersonic ballistic missile on November 10, saying it is capable of penetrating sophisticated aerial defense shields and striking designated targets.

"The missile has a high velocity and can maneuver both in and out of the Earth's atmosphere," he said, adding, "The new missile can pass through all missile defense systems.... It can target the enemy's anti-missile systems, and its production marks a huge leap in the development of a new generation of missiles."

"In the space field, we were recently able to launch Qaem 100 satellite carrier, which operates on solid fuel," the Iranian commander said, adding, "We will put the first satellite in the orbit during the current year, using Qaem 100 carrier."

## Armenia Appreciates Iran Stance on Int'l Borders Immutability

TEHRAN (MNA) - Armenian Deputy Foreign Minister Mnatsakan Safaryan appreciated Iran's principled and constructive positions regarding the sovereignty of countries in the region and the immutability of international borders.

Safaryan who is in Tehran met with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian on Sunday evening.

Referring to the recent visit of the Iranian foreign minister to Armenia and the opening of the Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kapan, Safaryan called this action a great development and a turning point in the process of expanding relations between the two countries.

He also appreciated Iran's principled and constructive



positions regarding the sovereignty of countries in the region and the immutability of international borders.

Pointing to the capacities and infrastructures available to expand bilateral economic relations between Iran and Armenia, he emphasized the need to follow up and make

efforts to implement the agreements that have been made.

Amirabdollahian, for his part, expressed satisfaction with the growing relations between the two friendly and neighboring countries.

He also considered the opening of the Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kapan as a practical and important step for the two countries to increase trade exchanges and move towards achieving a favorable perspective in economic relations.

## Army Ground Forces Receive First Smart Air Defense System

TEHRAN (IP) - The commander of the ground forces of the Iranian army announced the handover of the first Smart Air Defense System to the Army.

Brigadier-General Kioumars Heydari, the Commander of the Ground Forces of the Iranian army, announced the delivery of the first Smart Air Defense System to Iran's Army Ground Forces for increasing the efficiency of the units by the operational needs of the day.

The commander of the Iranian Army's ground forces said: Our drone unit has been established with several very extensive regional bases, and all of our drones are sophisticated, smart, accurate, and precision-guided.

Brigadier Heydari announced the handover of smart weapons to the Iranian Army and said that, in this regard, the smartening of the 155mm artillery has been completed and this smartening is continuing in other sectors as well.

The defense doctrine of the Islamic Republic of Iran is based on the great stability of the people and indigenous capabilities, and since the eight-year war imposed by Iraq's former Baath regime against Iran, the Islamic Republic has provided its defense needs by relying on the indigenous capabilities and capacities.

Iran's defense power is a message of calm, peace, and security for the governments and nations of the region.

## Talks Underway Between Iran, Iraq to Disarm Terrorist Groups

TEHRAN (MNA) - Iranian Ambassador to Iraq Mohammad Kazem Al-e Sadeh said that the central Iraqi government will take control of the borders and the separatist terrorist groups should be disarmed and returned to the refugee camps.

Speaking on Sunday evening, the Iranian diplomat revealed the negotiations between Iranian and Iraqi officials regarding the border issues.

During the meeting, Iran requested the Iraqi central government to take the control of borders of Iraq.

Stating that the Iraqi government has agreed with Iran's request, Al-e Sadeh said that Baghdad has asked for time regarding the disarmament of the separatist and opposition groups.

He emphasized that Iran has asked the Iraqi government to set a scheduled date for disarming the opposition.

Stressing that the separatist groups should be disarmed and returned to the camps as refugees, the ambassador pointed out that Iran agreed with the Iraqi side on the exchange of wanted persons based on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) inked between the Iranian and Iraqi judicial bodies.

Despite the repeated emphasis of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the need to end the presence of terrorist groups in the Iraqi Kurdistan region (KRG), Erbil again made claims in this regard last evening.

Accordingly, the Spokesperson for the Iraqi Kurdistan region issued a statement and claimed that Iraq's Kurdistan government will not allow its soil to pose a threat to the security of neighboring countries.

## MP Says "Energy Diplomacy" Helps Foil Oil Sanctions

TEHRAN (IRNA) - A lawmaker at Majlis said here that "energy diplomacy" is a strategy for foiling the oil sanctions; and the Islamic Republic's good diplomacy has turned the country into a shareholder of regional and ultra-regional refineries in South America.

Iran has also reached final agreement with Russia on a gas swap, Qassem Sa'edi told IRNA in an interview.

Now, the European countries which were after the United States to impose sanctions against Iran are in need of the Islamic Republic to meet their shortage of energy as Tehran could attract their attention through its soft and ultra-regional diplomacy, Sa'edi, who is a member of Majlis energy commission, noted.

Today, Islamic Republic is supporter of technology, the lawmaker stressed.

## Tehran Province's Railway Transports Over 2.73m Passengers in 7 Months

TEHRAN (MNA) - The railway of Tehran province has transported more than 2.73 million passengers during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-October 22), Transport and Urban Development Ministry has reported.

As reported, Tehran province's railway has recorded a growth of four percent in the transportation of suburban train passengers in the seven-month period of this year, as compared to the same period of time in the previous year.

In mid-October, the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI) said that the current government pays special attention to the transportation diplomacy in the railway sector.

Miad Salehi said, "Last year, thanks to the grace of God, we broke the record of rail transit, the record of exports from rail borders and the total number of international transports in the history of railways."

Stating that the development of railway lines is on the agenda in the current government, the head of the railways said: "Part of the requirements of railway development is the updating of equipment and special attention to the employees, and we are trying to take greater steps in these fields in the second year of the government."

The development of the railway sector is one of the macro policies of the Iranian government as it has been emphasized by the general policies of the country's National Development Plan.

In this regard, the national railway fleet has been constantly receiving new domestically-made locomotives and wagons over the past two years under the framework of a program implemented by the Transport Ministry in collaboration with the country's private sector.

Advantages such as consuming less fuel and creating less pollution as well as high safety attach priority to the railway when compared to some other transportation systems, and makes its development economically viable.

## 4 Iranians Among Most Cited Researchers of ESI

ARDABIL (IRNA) - Three academics and a graduate of the University of Mohaghegh Ardabili have been listed among the world's top one percent scientists in accordance with international citations.

Jebraeil Razmjou, deputy head of the department of research and technology of the University of Mohaghegh Ardabili, told reporters on Monday that information released by the Essential Science Indicators (ESI) of the Web of science (WOS) as well as the Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC) show the four Iranian researches as the most cited ones throughout the globe.

Essential Science Indicators (ESI) is an analytical tool that helps you identify top-performing research in Web of Science Core Collection.

Hossein Shayeghi, Aziz Habibi, Hadi Ghaebi and Hadi Rostamzadeh have been listed as the most cited researchers for the eighth, third, second and first year in a row respectively, Razmjou noted.

Hadi Rostamzadeh as one of the graduated students of the university was listed in the ranking, indicating the high-quality of education and research in the University of Mohaghegh Ardabili, the official added.

The selection of researchers with most cited works is being carried out concerning 22 scientific topics, he said, noting that the data, which have been utilized in analyses and selection of top one-percent researchers, have been extracted from the ESI.

According to the deputy head, the results of ESI ranking system is being updated bimonthly, which are evaluated on the basis of the number of reference to articles and other scientific products in the renowned web. The University of Mohaghegh Ardabili was set up in 1979 under the name of agriculture education center.

## UK Ambassador Summoned

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Foreign Ministry has for the fourth time in two months summoned the British ambassador in Tehran, Simon Shercliff, in protest at a recent attack by a violent group on the country's embassy in London.

According to Iran's official IRNA news agency, the Foreign Ministry's Director-General of the Protocol Department reminded the British ambassador of the UK government's obligations as per the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.

The Iranian official then conveyed to the British envoy Tehran's vehement protest at the British police's inefficiency and inability to prevent the attack on its embassy.

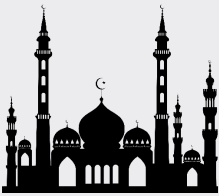
The new development came after a violent group attacked the building of Iran's embassy in London and insulted the sacred flag of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The British ambassador, for his part, expressed regret over the incident, adding that he will convey Iran's protest to London.

Shercliff also expressed hope that such incidents would not take place in the future.

Iran's Foreign Ministry in October summoned the British diplomat to voice its vehement protest at Britain's interference in the country's internal affairs and London's new sanctions against Tehran.





PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	11:50
■ Evening (Maghreb)	17:13
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	05:20
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:48

36. ((Allah)) said: “Granted is thy prayer, O Moses!”

37. “And indeed We conferred a favour on thee another time (before).

Surah 20. Ta-ha ( 36 - 37 )

8 Chinese Companies Ready to Invest in Imam Khomeini Airport

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

**TEHRAN – Caretaker of Imam Khomeini Airport City Company says 8 Chinese and 4 Iranian companies have announced their readiness for construction of the Terminal No.3 of Imam Khomeini Airport and talks are underway.**

In a press conference, Saeed Chalandari said that by the yearend, the contract for construction of the Terminal No.3 of Imam Khomeini Airport will be signed, adding that so far 8 Chinese and 4 Iranian companies have announced readiness for its construction. He added that the Strategic Council should decide whether the contractors are chosen via holding tenders or from among the current volunteer companies. He noted that currently 15 projects worth of 3,000b rials are underway and 2,120b tomans of the amount is financed by the domestic resources and the remaining 875b tomans will be financed by the private sector and based on BOT. Chalandari went on to say that 18 projects worth of 3b euros are ready for investment and its feasible studies have started and one project is related to the Terminal No.3. He said that the terminal is to be built on an area around 410,000 square meters and it will be a combination for the domestic and international flights. He noted that after construction of this terminal, domestic and international flights will be carried out simultaneously like most airports in the world and it will help one of the problems of



Iranian airlines to be resolved. Currently some 11 domestic and 23 foreign airlines fly from Imam Khomeini Airport to 50 destinations in 28 countries. He then touched upon the visits of football fans to Qatar to watch World Cup matches and said that the company has tried to resolve the problems of the World Cup ticket-holders and most of the problems have been resolved. He said that on Sunday there were 6 flights between Tehran-Doha by Qatar Airways and IranAir has requested for 58 flights and it is now unknown how many of these flights will take place. Chalandaeri admitted there are some problems in the airport and said that the company is working hard to resolve them. He added that one of the problems is the passport control gates which are manual and sometimes, because of the huge number of the passengers, long lines are formed and the company is trying to solve it. He went on to say that the city faces water shortage and there are 8 wells for irrigating the green space of the airport and unfortunately they have all dried.

Tehran, Caracas to Build Joint Technological, Scientific Park



TEHRAN (MNA) – The president of the University of Tehran said that Iran and Venezuela have agreed to build a joint technological and scientific park. The President of the University of Tehran (UT), Seyyed Mohammad Moghimi made the comments in a meeting with a high-ranking Venezuelan academic delegation. The UT president said that the first priority of the university is to increase cooperation with friendly countries. “Venezuela is considered one of Iran’s old friends, and in the 13th Iranian government, a special emphasis has been placed on expanding cooperation between Iran and Venezuela in all fields, especially in the field of science diplomacy,” Moghimi said. Pointing out that the political, economic, social and technical interactions between Iran and Venezuela are developing on a daily basis, he noted that Tehran University has the capacity to develop its activities in a variety of scientific and specialized fields with universities and the government of Venezuela. Also referring to the visits of several delegations from Iraq, Armenia, Georgia and Russia to the UT’s Science and Technology Park of and their request to set up a branch of the Science and Technology Park in those countries, he said, UT is ready to set up a branch of the same park in Venezuela. In response to Venezuela’s Deputy Minister of Research, Science and Technology to establish a joint science and technology park between Iran and Venezuela, Moghimi said, “In order to establish a joint park between the two countries, the head of the UT Science and Technology Park will make a feasibility study during his visit to Venezuela.” He added, “We can reach a suitable model to help the technical development of businesses in Venezuela and also provide technical assistance to Iranian investors in Venezuela.” Moghimi further said about the joint UT cooperation with Venezuela’s top universities, that the UT would welcome professors from the Latin American country to strengthen the Spanish-Language department, as well as the establishment of master’s and doctoral courses in Spanish at the UT.

Iran Ramping Up Poultry Exports

TEHRAN (PressTV) - An Iranian agriculture ministry official says poultry export from the country is expected to increase significantly in the coming weeks with the spread of the highly pathogenic avian influenza in poultry farms in the region. Deputy agriculture minister and head of Iran Veterinary Organization (IVO) Mohammad Aghamiri said on Sunday that a regional spread of the H5N1 strain of avian influenza, commonly known as severe bird flu, had left many countries short of poultry stocks. “That has created a good opportunity for our producers and exporters of poultry products,” said Aghamiri as he reiterated previous IVO statements that Iranian poultry farms are completely free of H5N1. He said veterinary authorities in Kuwait had asked

the country’s customs office to lift a ban on poultry imports from Iran. The official said Iraq had also eased its curbs on imports of poultry products from Iran after nearly six years. Tens of millions of poultry birds have been slaughtered in various parts of the world, especially in countries in Europe and the United States, after a wave of severe bird flu cases were reported in those regions. Aghamiri said Iran started to introduce strict measures to prevent the spread of H5N1 in its poultry farms over summer when lower number of cases of the disease were expected based on patterns reported in previous years. Bird flu can be transmitted form wild birds to poultry flocks.

Iran Exporting Coal to 38 Countries in World

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iran has exported coal to 38 countries in the world in the first seven months of the current year (from March 21 to Oct. 22). According to the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), the maximum amount of coal was exported to countries including the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Afghanistan, India, and China. The report put the monthly export of coal to foreign countries at \$23 million. The country’s monthly export volume of coal stands at 113,000 tomans. The experts expect that Iran’s export of coal will register a considerable hike in the coming months.

19th Int’l Exhibition of Iran METAFO to Be Held in Late November

TEHRAN (MNA) – The 19th International Exhibition of Iran METAFO is slated to be held in Tehran in late November. Over 400 domestic companies and 50 foreign companies are expected to take part in the expo. International Exhibitions provide companies with a great opportunity to showcase their brands and advantages in a spacious market and develop their network of business partners in new regions, the portal of the exposition reported. 19th Iran METAFO will be held from Nov. 30 - December 3 in Tehran international permanent fairground and gets hundreds of industrial companies and experts together.

NIGC Curbs 164m Tons of Emissions by Developing Gas Network

TEHRAN (MNA) - The acting head of the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) Health, Safety and Environment Department (HSE) has said with the development of the gas supply network in the country, the emission of 164 million tons of air pollutants and greenhouse gases has been prevented, Shana reported. “Gas supply to rural areas has a significant impact on preserving the environment and reducing fossil fuel consumption,” Jalal Nour-Mousavi said on the sidelines of the 20th International Environmental Exhibition on Sunday. “With the expansion of the gas network in the country, especially in rural areas, the cutting of trees has been significantly prevented and the use of diesel fuel has also been reduced,” the official added. He also appreciated a recent directive by the oil minister to facilitate the implementation of environmental projects in the South Pars region in order to reduce SO2 emissions and gas flaring. Back in October, the former head of NIGC’s HSE department Gholamreza Bahman-Nia said his company was following a comprehensive plan for reducing gas flaring in South Pars refineries by 2,344 million cubic meters (mcm) in two years. “Reducing the release of pollutants has always been one of the main approaches of the National Iranian Gas Company and its subsidiaries in order to protect the environment, and so far, many programs and measures have been carried out in this regard,” Bahman-Nia told Shana.



National Iranian Gas Company At Forefront of Economic War

TEHRAN (IP) - The deputy minister of petroleum for gas affairs emphasized the all-around preparation of the country’s refineries for stable gas production in the cold season, announcing that the oil industry and National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) are at the forefront of the economic war. Majid Chegeni visited gas processing plants in Assaluyeh, southern Iran together with members of the board of directors of NIGC, the director of production coordination and supervision of this company, and the new members of the board of directors of South Pars Gas Complex. In a meeting with the CEOs of South Pars, Parsian, and Fajr Jam refineries, he emphasized that the issues and problems of the employees and specialists of these refineries would be followed up until the final and desired result is achieved. “We are proud to be among you, the frontline employees of the country’s economic front,” he said. Emphasizing the all-round support of the efficient and experienced workforce of the South Pars Gas Complex, the deputy oil minister for gas affairs added: “The greatest worship is to serve the people of the society, and you hardworking employees who serve and operate in the most strategic pole of the country’s economy, be sure that all these moments your service is worship.” Chegeni emphasized: “The oil industry and especially NIGC are now on the front line of the economic war, and you, the well-known soldiers of the South Pars Gas Complex, are on the front line of this fierce battle, and considering the difficulties and hardships, thanks to God, you brave men in the field of service will be victorious in this field.” He continued: “The enemy is always planning a new design with all its might and with cruel sanctions, which has harmed the country in the economic field, but until now, with the tact, vigilance and outstanding actions of the valuable experts and employees, the enemy’s hope have been disappointed and, by the grace of God, it will be the same in the future.”

TEHRAN (Shana) - The director of exploration at the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) announced the completion of negotiations for oil and gas exploration with three foreign countries. According to the NIOC, Mehdi Fakur said: “Increasing cooperation in the field of exploration is one of the most important goals of energy diplomacy, which is being followed up by NIOC.” He added: “Currently, 11 main projects with 300 sub-projects have been defined in the exploration department of the NIOC, most of which being focused on study and research activities.” While appreciating the support of the CEO of the NIOC and the Minister of Petroleum for exploration of oil and gas, the director of exploration of the NIOC said: “In terms of budget allocation, we are at a high level, so that for the first time we were able to receive the second rank of financial resources in the field of drilling among the subsidiaries and departments of the NIOC.”

Over 2.5m Tons of Basic Goods Imported via Shahid Rajaei Port

BANDAR ABBAS (IRNA) - Over 2 million and 770 thousand tons of basic commodities have been imported to Iran via Shahid Rajaei port, the country’s largest and best-equipped container port, since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21), according to a provincial official. Director-General of Hormozgan Ports & Maritime Organization, Hossein Abbas Nejhad said here on Monday that during the said time span(the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year,March 21), 1,276 million tons (mt) of wheat have been unloaded and loaded in Shahid Rajaei Port. The director of The Special Economic Zone (SEZ) of Shahid Rajaei Port in his remarks added that at the time being, two ships containing 42,000 tons of Vegetable Oil and 68,000 tons of wheat are unloading goods at Shahid Rajaei Port’s docks. Located along the Persian Gulf and near the Strait of Hormoz, Shahid Rajaei Port is Iran’s biggest container hub, handling almost 80% of the country’s container activities. The strategic port can accommodate Panamax cargo ships with a capacity of more than 12,000 TEU. The port’s capacity is envisaged to increase to 8 million TEU when the construction operations are complete.



# Bahrain Elects More Women In Parliament Vote

DUBAI (Dispatches) - Bahrain has elected a record eight women and many first-time lawmakers to its 40-seat parliament, according to results announced of this week’s polls held without opposition candidates.

The official Bahrain News Agency published the list of 34 candidates who won seats in the second round of parliamentary elections on Saturday, adding to six confirmed after a first round on November 12.

Two major opposition groups, the Shiite Al-Wefaq and the secular Waad, were prevented from presenting candidates. These parties were dissolved in 2016 and 2017 respectively.

Amnesty International said ahead of the poll that the elections were taking place in an “environment of political repression”.



# Nepal Votes in Poll Colored By Downturn, Discontent

KATHMANDU (Dispatches) - Nepali voters cast their ballots for a new parliament Sunday in a contest dominated by public frustrations over the Himalayan republic’s elderly political elite and anxiety over its teetering economy.

A revolving door of prime ministers -- most serving less than a year -- and a culture of horse-trading have fuelled perceptions the government is out of touch with Nepal’s pressing problems.

Several younger faces are contesting for the first time, up against established parties whose leaders have strode the corridors of power for decades.



# Ukraine Says Negotiating With Moscow Would Be Capitulation



KYIV (Dispatches) - The West’s attempts to persuade Ukraine to negotiate with Moscow, after a series of major military victories by Kiev, are “bizarre” and amount to asking for its capitulation, a key adviser to the Ukrainian presidency told AFP.

“When you have the initiative on the battlefield, it’s slightly bizarre to receive proposals like: ‘you will not be able to do everything by military means anyway, you need to negotiate,’” said Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky’s adviser Mykhaylo Podolyak.

This would mean that the country “that recovers its territories, must capitulate to the country that is losing,” he added, during an interview with AFP at his office in the presidency building in Kyiv.

US media recently reported that some senior officials were beginning to encourage Ukraine to consider talks, which Zelensky has so far rejected without a prior withdrawal of Russian forces from all Ukrainian territory.

“There has to be a mutual recognition that military victory is probably in the true sense of the word maybe not achievable through military means,” top US General Mark Milley said earlier this month, estimating that there is “a window of opportunity for negotiation”.

According to Podolyak, Moscow has not made “any direct proposal” to Kiev for peace talks, preferring to transmit them through intermediaries and even raising the possibility of a ceasefire.

Kiev sees such talk as mere manoeuvring by the Kremlin to win some respite on the ground and prepare a new offensive.

“Russia doesn’t want negotiations. Russia is conducting a communication campaign called ‘negotiations,’” the Ukraine presidential adviser said.

“It will simply stall for time. In the meantime, it will train its mobilised forces, find additional weapons” and fortify its positions,” he warned.

Despite Russia’s heavy military defeats in recent weeks, including Ukraine retaking the key southern city of Kherson, President Vladimir Putin still thinks “he can destroy Ukraine, this is his obsession” and negotiating with him “makes no sense”, Podolyak argued.

The West cannot pressurize Ukraine into negotiations, he insisted.

“Our partners still think that it is possible to return to the pre-war era when Russia is a reliable partner”.

Following massive Russian withdrawals from the Kyiv region in March, then from the Kharkiv region in the northeast in September, the liberation of Kherson this month marked a “fundamental” turning point in the conflict, according to Podolyak.

Spurred on by its string of military victories, Ukraine can “afford no pause” in its counter-offensive, despite the arrival of winter cold and snow that make the situation on the ground more difficult.

“Today, even a little pause just adds to the losses suffered by Ukraine,” said the official.

Moscow has been shelling the country’s energy infrastructure for weeks, plunging millions of homes into darkness.

# Muhyiddin Gains Backing For Malaysia PM Bid

KUALA LUMPUR (Dispatches) - Malaysia’s former premier Muhyiddin Yassin secured backing from two political blocs as he sought to form a new government after a general election produced a hung parliament, but he had yet to win the required majority.

Muhyiddin, of the Perikatan Nasional coalition, said he had won support from two regional blocs based in the island of Borneo. That would boost his alliance’s seat tally from 73 to 101 - still short of the required 112 majority.

“I am confident I will obtain enough support from lawmakers that will enable me to be appointed by the king as Prime Minister,” he said, without saying which other parties might back him.

Longtime opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim, whose Pakatan Harapan coalition won the most number of seats in Saturday’s election with 82, is also racing to win support from other groups.

The inconclusive election saw Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob’s Barisan Nasional alliance suffer its worst electoral defeat ever, winning just 30 of the 178 seats it ran for.



## French-Speaking Bloc Examines Unrest in Africa

TUNIS (Dispatches) - Facing calls to do more to resolve global crises, the world’s French-speaking leaders met in Tunisia to discuss growing instability and popular discontent in Francophone Africa.

But tensions crept into the International Organisation of Francophonie (IOF) conference itself when the Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Jean-Michel Sama Lukonde, refused to pose for a photo next to Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda.

The DRC accuses Rwanda of supporting M23 rebels who have seized swathes of territory in its eastern region, displacing tens of thousands of people and igniting regional tensions.

The head of the 88-member IOF bloc, Louise Mushikiwabo, said Saturday it should strive to be a “link that can be used to prevent tensions from degenerating into conflicts”. But Senegalese civil society figure Alioune Tine said the IOF has shown itself to be “totally powerless in the face of fraudulent elections, third mandates (of African leaders) and military coups” in Mali, Guinea, Chad and Burkina Faso.

On Sunday, delegates at the conference on the island of Djerba were to also attend workshops on the youth and women’s entrepreneurship before an economic forum starts.

Ahead of the summit, Mushikiwabo told AFP that “the defiance that we’re seeing among young people in francophone Africa comes from political disillusionment” and frustrations over daily life.

The IOF, founded in 1970, aims to promote the French language, develop economic cooperation and help mediate international conflicts.

Many African leaders have expressed dismay at the West’s rapid response to the war in Ukraine, in contrast to wars in their own countries.

Still, Macron said “a declaration of all the members” had stated “a very clear position on the war launched by Russia in Ukraine.”

Macron also said Saturday that the IOF should reclaim its diplomatic role, and Paris later announced that it would seek to take on the organisation’s rotating presidency from 2024.

# Tokayev Re-Elected as Kazakhstan President With Landslide Victory

ASTANA (Dispatches) - Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev secured a second term in a snap election, winning 81.3 percent of the votes. The announcement was made by the nation’s Central Election Commission made the announcement on Monday citing preliminary data.

According to a report on AlJazeera, Tokayev had been widely expected to retain his position for seven more years with a strong mandate to continue his increasingly independent foreign policy, as the former Soviet republic navigates the Russia-Ukraine crisis.

“We can say that the people have expressed convincing confidence in me as president and all of you,” Tokayev (69) told his staff earlier, referring to exit polls that favored him.

Tokayev faced no real opposition and the voter turnout was 69.4 percent, with five other candidates scoring in the low single digits. Notably, the second most popular choice was “against everyone” with 5.8 percent of ballots.

Tokayev won his first election in 2019 with the backing of his predecessor, Nursultan Nazarbayev. However, both of them fell out earlier this year amid violent unrest in the nation of 20 million citizens. Sunday’s vote consolidated his power as an independent leader.

The call for early elections was made by Tokayev in late September with a decree saying the polls would launch “an electoral cycle that will lead to a radical reset of the entire political system.” The announcement came after Tokayev approved a constitutional amendment to increase the presidential term from five years to seven while barring future presidents from serving a second term.

Another move was changing the capital’s name back to Astana after it was changed to Nur-Sultan in 2019 in a tribute to outgoing President Nursultan Nazarbayev. Tokayev took over as president in March 2019, succeeding Nazarbayev, who ruled the oil-rich Central Asian nation for three decades.

The Kazakh elections were closely monitored by 641 international observers, including 35 states and 10 international organizations, including the OSCE, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday congratulated Tokayev, on his landslide victory, “You have received a convincing mandate of trust from fellow citizens, which opens up new opportunities for the implementation of the course of national development that you are advancing.”

Putin said in a statement released by the Kremlin.



# Turkey Launches Air Raids Against Kurdish Militants in Syria, Iraq

ISTANBUL (Dispatches) - Turkey announced early Sunday it had carried out air strikes against outlawed Kurdish militant bases across northern Syria and Iraq which it said were being used to launch “terrorist” attacks on its soil.

The offensive codenamed Operation Claw-Sword comes after a deadly blast in central Istanbul last Sunday which killed six people and wounded 81, with Turkey blaming a banned Kurdish group.

“We are starting Operation Claw-Sword from now on,” Defence Minister Hulusi Akar said at the air force operations centre before the planes left their bases to hit the targets in northern Iraq and Syria.

Akar was also seen in a video image briefing President Recep Tayyip Erdogan who gave the order for the latest operation, which a monitor said had killed 12 people.

The raids targeted bases of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) and the Kurdish People’s Protection Units (YPG), which Ankara considers an extension of the PKK, the defence ministry said.

“In line with our self-defense rights arising from Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, air operation Claw-Sword was carried out in the regions in the north of Iraq and Syria which are used as bases for attacks on our country by terrorists,” it added.

Turkey blamed the PKK for the Istanbul bombing, the deadliest in five years and which evoked bitter memories of a wave of nationwide bombings from 2015 to 2017 that were attributed mostly to Kurdish militants and Islamic State group jihadists.

The PKK, which has waged a bloody insurgency in Turkey for decades and which is designated as a terror group by Turkey and its Western allies, and the YPG have both denied any involvement in the attack.

No individual or group has claimed responsibility.

Turkish police captured the chief suspect Alham Albashir -- a Syrian woman who is said to have been working for Kurdish militants -- in an Istanbul suburb.

“The hour of reckoning has come,” the Turkish defence ministry tweeted, along with a photo of a plane taking off for a night operation.





## Libya's Festering Crisis Risks Slide Back to War

TRIPOLI (Dispatches) - As its political stalemate festers, Libya risks sliding back towards civil war with diplomacy at a standstill, politicians thwarting progress towards elections and military leaders including eastern commander Khalifa Haftar threatening violence.

A move by forces aligned with the Tripoli government this week to blockade a meeting by a legislative body, a bout of deadly fighting in August and Haftar's warnings of a new war all underscore the risks.

With the new U.N. envoy Abdoulaye Bathily warning in a first report this week that "some institutional players are actively hindering progress towards elections" there seems little prospect of any real move towards a settled peace.

"No one is talking about elections any more. The game playing that political leaders are doing is always to obstruct. It's all delaying tactics," said Oman Gajiji, a former Libyan electoral commission head.

In Tripoli, many people fear that continued gridlock raises the chances of violence, which has flared several times in the capital this year and always risks escalating into wider conflict.

"The crisis is mainly getting prolonged because those in power seek their own interests, not those of Libyans," said Adel al-Sheikh, 39, a Tripoli shop owner.

Fair national elections were the only solution, he said. "Otherwise we won't have a stable country and for sure there will be more wars," he added.

The prospect of more conflict would not only create misery for ordinary Libyans: the stakes are also high for an inattentive world.

War could mean a new theatre for Russia-Western friction on the Mediterranean, cuts to Libya's 1.2 million barrels-per-day oil output during a global energy shortage, a space for Islamist militants to prosper and fuel for a global migration crisis.

Libya has had little open warfare since the 2020 ceasefire that ended Haftar's last assault on Tripoli, the culmination of years of division between factions who emerged during a 2011 NATO-backed uprising and split between east and west in 2014.

On the surface, Libya's political standoff seems defined by disputes over an eventual constitution, the rules of a future election, regional divisions of wealth and the shape of a transitional government.

However, many Libyans suspect that behind the public facade of each faction's avowed support for elections, none has much interest in a long-term resolution because each benefits from the messy status quo.

National elections could sweep away most of the squabbling political forces that have dominated Libya through years of institutional division, outright warfare and unstable peace.

In Tripoli, Prime Minister Abdulhamid al-Dbeibah runs the Government of National Unity, installed early last year through a U.N.-backed process to oversee a short transition that was meant to culminate in elections last year.

His government's direct access to oil revenue through the Central Bank and spending on development projects run by political allies has drawn repeated accusations of widespread corruption, which Dbeibah denies.

The eastern parliament has rejected his legitimacy since last year's election process fell apart amid disputes over the rules. It backs a separate administration under Fathi Bashagha, urging its own plan for an election.

However, the parliament's own term formally expired years ago and critics of the speaker, Aguila Saleh, accuse him of playing loose with legislative rules to issue laws aimed at consolidating his power base, something he also denies.



## Oral Health Neglect Affecting Nearly Half of The World's Population

GENEVA (Dispatches) - A new Global Oral Health Status Report published by the World Health Organization (WHO) provides the first-ever comprehensive picture of oral disease burden with data profiles for 194 countries, giving unique insights into key areas and markers of oral health that are relevant for decision-makers.

The report shows that almost half of the world's population (45% or 3.5 billion people) suffer from oral diseases, with 3 out of every 4 affected people living in low- and middle-income countries. Global cases of oral diseases have increased by 1 billion over the last 30 years—a clear indication that many people do not have access to prevention and treatment of oral diseases.

"Oral health has long been neglected in global health, but many oral diseases can be prevented and treated with the cost-effective measures outlined in this report," said WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. "WHO is committed to providing guidance and support to countries so that all people, wherever they live and whatever their income, have the knowledge and tools needed to look after their teeth and mouths, and to access services for prevention and care when they need them."

The most common oral diseases are dental caries (tooth decay), severe gum disease, tooth loss and oral cancers. Untreated dental caries is the single most common condition globally, affecting an estimated 2.5 billion people. Severe gum disease – a major cause of total tooth loss – is estimated to affect 1 billion people worldwide. About 380 000 new cases of oral cancers are diagnosed every year.

The report underscores the glaring inequalities in access to oral health services, with a huge burden of oral diseases and conditions affecting the most vulnerable and disadvantaged populations. People on low incomes, people living with disabilities, older people living alone or in care homes, those living in remote and rural communities and people from minority groups carry a higher burden of oral diseases.

This pattern of inequalities is similar to other noncommunicable diseases such as cancers, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and mental disorders. Risk factors common to noncommunicable diseases such as high sugar intake, all forms of tobacco use, and harmful use of alcohol all contribute to the global oral health crisis.

Only a small percentage of the global population is covered by essential oral health services, and those with the greatest need often have the least access to services. The key barriers to delivering access to oral health services for all include:

Oral health care requires high out-of-pocket expenditures. This often leads to catastrophic costs and significant financial burden for families and communities.

The provision of oral health services largely relies on highly specialized providers using expensive high-tech equipment and materials, and these services are not well integrated with primary health care models.

Poor information and surveillance systems, combined with low priority for public oral health research are major bottlenecks to developing more effective oral health interventions and policies.

The report showcases many promising opportunities to improve the state of global oral health including:

\*adopting a public health approach by addressing common risk factors through promoting a well-balanced diet low in sugars, stopping use of all forms of tobacco, reducing alcohol consumption and improving access to effective and affordable fluoride toothpaste.

\*planning oral health services as part of national health and improving integration of oral health services in primary health care as part of universal health coverage.



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## Fitch Affirms Mexico at 'BBB-'

MEXICO CITY (Dispatches) - Fitch Ratings affirmed Mexico's long-term local-currency and foreign-currency issuer default rating (IDR) at 'BBB-', with a stable rating outlook.

"Mexico's rating is supported by a prudent macroeconomic policy framework, stable and robust external finances, and government debt/GDP projected to remain stable at levels below the 'BBB' median," the ratings agency said in a statement.

Fitch added Mexico's rating is constrained by weak governance indicators, muted long-term growth, potential micro policy intervention affecting investment prospects, and the possible contingent liabilities from state oil firm Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex). It also said it expects President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador's government will remain committed to financially supporting Pemex, as part of its priority to strengthen the role of state-owned companies in the energy sector.



## Germany Plans to Tighten Rules for Firms Highly Dependent on China

BERLIN (Dispatches) - Germany's foreign ministry plans to tighten the rules for companies deeply exposed to China, making them disclose more information and possibly conduct stress tests for geopolitical risks, a confidential draft document seen by Reuters said.

The proposed measures are part of a new business strategy towards China being drawn up by Chancellor Olaf Scholz's government as it seeks to reduce its dependency on Asia's economic superpower.

"The aim is to change the incentive structure for German companies with market economy instruments so that reducing export dependency is more attractive," said the document, singling out the chemicals and car industries.

A spokesperson for the foreign ministry declined to comment.

The draft, drawn up by the foreign ministry led by the Greens' Annalena Baerbock, still has to be agreed by other ministries.

A final decision on the China strategy is expected early next year.

Deep trade ties bind Asia and Europe's biggest economies, with rapid Chinese expansion and demand for Germany's cars and machinery fuelling its own growth over the past two decades. China became Germany's single biggest trade partner in 2016.

However, the relationship has come under close scrutiny since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February, which led to the end of a decade-long energy relationship with Moscow and caused numerous companies to ditch their local businesses.

"We must not make this mistake again. This is the responsibility of politicians and companies," said the document.

Among the steps outlined in the 65-page paper, some of which have already been reported, is a tightening of rules for firms active in China to ensure geopolitical risks are accounted for.

"We aim to oblige companies particularly exposed to China to specify and summarize relevant China-related developments and figures, for example in the form of a separate notification obligation, on the basis of existing disclosure requirements," said the document.

"On this basis, we will assess whether affected companies should conduct regular stress tests in order to identify China-specific risks at an early stage and take corrective measures."

Investment guarantees will face greater scrutiny to take account of the environmental impact, work and social standards and to avoid forced labor in the supply chain, said the document. To avoid cluster risks, investment guarantees should be limited to 3 billion euros per company per country, it added.

The government also plans to tighten export credit guarantees to avoid unwanted technology transfer, in particular sensitive dual-use technologies and those that can be used for surveillance and repression, said the document.

The new strategy, pushed hard by the Greens in the coalition, led by Social Democrat Scholz but also including the pro-business Free Democrats, marks a departure from Berlin's policies under former conservative Chancellor Angela Merkel.

## Fitch Estimates Limited Impact on Brazilian Banks

BRASILIA (Dispatches) - It seems unlikely that the re-election of leftist candidate Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva as president of Brazil will result in major changes in macroeconomic policy, although some changes in microeconomic policies are expected, which may affect Brazilian banks. However, the president-elect has yet to define his economic team, resulting in some uncertainty regarding the predictability of the policies to be adopted. Lula will assume the Presidency on January 1, 2023.

The Operating Environment is the main anchor factor for the ratings of all banks, whose ratings are based on their intrinsic credit quality, reflected in their Viability Rating (VR). The sovereign rating ('BB-') influences the Operating Environment score, but can also be adjusted by factors relevant to Brazil, such as: institution size, structure, stability and performance of the economy, credit level and growth, development of the financial market, regulation and legal framework, as well as expectations for general credit indicators. However, state-owned banks will be closely monitored, as these entities are likely to face the most immediate impact of the change in government. Federal bank ratings are support-based and therefore linked to the sovereign's creditworthiness. The agency will continue to assess the government's ability and propensity to support state-owned banks.

One of the main points to be monitored will be the evolution of the financial profiles of state-owned banks. Private banks' share of domestic lending increased to 57.6% in the second half of 2022 from 53.2% in June 2020, while federal banks' market share fell to 42% from 46% in the same period. This indicates that left-wing governments may further encourage public banks to develop a stronger appetite for credit than private banks in certain periods, although it is still too early to say that this will happen. A possible change in the competitive scenario may affect private banks, especially smaller institutions, which may suffer from a reduction in market share and a possible increase in funding costs.

## European Refiners Oversupplied as Oil Shortage Fears Subside

LONDON (Dispatches) - European refiners have found themselves oversupplied with crude as an expected shortage owing to the looming EU ban on Russian oil has yet to materialize.

The front-month Brent crude futures spread narrowed sharply this week, reflecting better supply in the physical oil market as fears over the EU embargo on Russian crude begin to subside.

Premiums on prompt prices to future prices - known as a backwardated market structure - usually indicate supply tightness.

Traders cited Europe's ability to replace Russian oil with grades from the Middle East, the United States and Latin America while Asia is asking for less crude because of an economic slowdown and increased use of Russian barrels. Brent futures prices have also slumped by about 7% this week, weakening for a second week in a row.

"There's too much oil around," one European crude trader said.

"(European) refiners seem to have overbought in November and December, probably because of fears around Urals," he said, adding that French strikes and refinery maintenance also contributed to a crude overhang.

Russian Urals crude prices jumped in August as traders and refiners rushed to buy as many barrels as possible, fearing the EU ban on Russian oil would lead to shortages.

The EU will ban Russian crude imports from Dec. 5 and oil products from Feb. 5. A G7 price cap on Russian crude also comes into effect on Dec. 5.

"The expectation of a tight market has not been realised," a second European trader said, adding that oil from Brazil, Guyana, Canada and the U.S. Midland region was heading to Europe to improve the supply picture. However, he cautioned that supply is likely to tighten again in the new year.

Traders said refiners have adjusted to living without Russian crude, which had been a mainstay of Europe's refining system.

As a result, premiums for alternative grades such as Kazakh CPC Blend, West Africa and WTI Midland have all come under pressure.

European imports of Latin American crude have soared since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, averaging 313,000 barrels per day (bpd) this year, up from 132,000 bpd in 2021, Refinitiv Eikon data shows.

## Turkey on Course to Achieve \$250b Exports Despite Challenges

ANKARA (Dispatches) - Turkey's Trade Minister Mehmet Muş said his country remained on course to achieve its year-end exports target, despite global uncertainties spearheaded by deteriorating demand in Europe.

Demand in the country's largest market is expected to weaken even further in the coming period, constituting a serious risk for Turkey's trade. The gloomy outlook was affirmed this week by data that showed demand in Turkey's key export markets continued to weaken in October.

"As of now, we think we will achieve this (2022) goal. There is no question of any deviation from this goal," Muş told the sixth edition of the Turkey Export Mobilization Summit.

The event was organized by Turkey's leading media group and Daily Sabah's parent company, Turkuvaz Media, in Istanbul.

Turkey's exports remained buoyant and rose 15.4% from January through October this year to \$209.5 billion, according to official data, marking an all-time 10-month high.

Turkey has set a \$250 billion export target for this year, after reaching a record \$225 billion in 2021.

Regarding 2023, Muş said they would "reflect all our energy on the field" to ensure exports stay on the upward path.

Muş said there has been a slowdown in the growth trend of exports, citing weakening demand in the European Union, where almost half of the Turkey's shipments go.

"A slowdown there (in Europe), whether we want it or not, a drop in demand there affects our exports," he said.

Shipments to the EU jumped 13.5% in the first ten months, with Turkey enjoying a \$9.7 billion surplus in trade with the bloc.

Muş stressed Turkey's efforts to diversify markets and cited the government's strategy to boost sales to remote countries.

"The share we have in the world exports is 1%, but the share we hold in the countries we identify as distant countries is 0.25%. Therefore, we have a goal to raise it to the same level," he added.

"We want to increase our share here to the average level of 1%, which is the share we receive from the world. This means an increase in exports to us with today's figures of an additional \$80 billion."

This is a difficult process, Muş said, citing challenges regarding logistics, planning and distribution channels. But he noted the expanded trips, fairs and organizations in the targeted markets. Muş expressed that the image of Turkey and Turkish products in remote countries is "very positive," stressing that they would focus very intensively on them in the coming period and that these studies may take up to four months.

## By 2030, India Will Be World's 3rd Largest Economy



BEW DELHI (Dispatches) - Adani Group's Founder and Chairman claimed that India will become the world's third-largest economy by the end of 2030. He added that the country will become 2nd largest economy by 2050.

Adani was delivering a keynote address on "India's Path to an Economic Superpower" at the World Congress of Accountants 2022 in Mumbai on Saturday.

Gautam Adani said that the next three decades would propel India to the forefront of entrepreneurship. "I expect the number of startups will lead to VC funding in India. India has already seen an acceleration in VC funding to \$50 billion in just eight years," he added.

On renewable energy, the industrialist said that the combination of solar and green power, coupled with green hydrogen would open up "great" opportunities for the future.

"By 2050, there is potential for India to become a net exporter of Green Energy," the Adani Group chairman said on Saturday.

In a roughly 30-minute long speech, Adani expressed confidence in India's growing economy and lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Central government initiatives.

"In 1947, there was an opinion that Indian democracy would not survive. Not only we survived, but now India is regarded as a role model for a peaceful transfer of power from government to the next". Adani added, "It is after more than two decades... that we have a government of the majority of its own. This has given our country the ability to initiate several structural reforms".

Speaking about the rapid rise in India's GDP, Adani said, "It took 58 years to get our first trillion dollars of GDP; 12 years to get the next trillion and just 5 years for 3rd trillion".

He anticipated that in the next decade, India will start adding trillion dollars to its GDP every 12-18 months.

## Bangladesh Now Global Leader With 178 Green Factories

DHAKA (Dispatches) - Bangladesh has further strengthened its position as the global leader in safe and green readymade garment (RMG) factory units with two more units obtaining U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (Leed) certificates.

According to the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), the country's apparel sector currently has 178 Leed-certified factories.

Industry insiders said that these green factories help dramatically save operational expenses over time even though they may initially cost more to set up.

Green factories are expected to help reduce energy use by 40%, water consumption by more than 30% and carbon dioxide emissions, further ensuring environmental safety, said the BGMEA.

As the factory owners are required to adhere to specific criteria for the construction of the buildings, these factories also provide a safe working environment for employees.

The RMG sector of Bangladesh has consolidated its position in green manufacturing units with 58 in the platinum category, 106 in gold, 10 in silver and another four Leed-certified factory buildings as of November 17, 2022.

Bangladesh Export Import Company (Beximco) Ltd, located at Beximco Industrial Park at Gazipur, obtained a platinum certificate from the USGBC with a score of 85 on Thursday.

Moreover, Narayanganj-based Barnali Collections Limited obtained a gold certificate with a score of 64, said a BGMEA official. According to the RMG industry's trade body, another 550 factories are in pipeline or registered to get USGBC's Leed certification. So far in 2022, 13 factories have been certified which is also a record.



Experts said that Bangladesh's garment industry is now poised to take the lead globally by addressing mounting issues of sustainability, climate change, groundwater depletion and efficiency.

The growing number of green apparel factories will give Bangladesh a vantage ground to cope up with EU green deals and due diligence directives, stated both the experts and the businesses.

They stated that their goal is to create a sustainable, energy-efficient and environmentally friendly apparel industry and increase innovation, recycling, and the circular economy.



## Iran Reports Major Surge in Cargo Transit Via Turkmen Border

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iranian railway officials have reported a major surge in the transit of cargo through a key crossing in the northeastern border with Turkmenistan.

Head of Iran's local railway branch in Golestan province Mohsen Etemad said on Monday that loading and unloading of cargo at Incheh Borun crossing had reached an average record high of 40-65 wagons per day.

Incheh Borun mainly processes cargo transit to and from Iran to Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan. Iran has spent heavily in recent years to expand the transportation infrastructure at the crossing to facilitate trade and transit with landlocked countries in the Central Asia region.



## North Korea's New Hwasong-17 "Monster Missile"



SEOUL (Dispatches) - North Korea said it test fired its massive new Hwasong-17 intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), in what analysts said may be the first successful launch of the system after doubts were raised about earlier claims.

The Hwasong-17 is nuclear-armed North Korea's biggest missile yet, and is the largest road-mobile, liquid-fuelled ICBM in the world.

Its diameter is estimated to be between 2.4 and 2.5 meters, and its total mass, when fully fuelled, is likely somewhere between 80,000 and 110,000 kg, according to 38 North, a U.S.-based program that monitors North Korea.

Unlike North Korea's earlier ICBMs, the Hwasong-17 is launched directly from a transporter, erector, launcher (TEL) vehicle with 11 axles, photos by state media showed.

The missile launched on Friday flew nearly 1,000 km (621 miles) for about 69 minutes and reached a maximum altitude of 6,041 km, state news agency KCNA reported on Saturday.

Japanese Defence Minister Yasukazu Hamada said the weapon could travel as far as 15,000 km (9,320 miles), enough to reach the continental United States.

North Korea previously claimed it had successfully launched a Hwasong-17 for the first time on March 24, when state media said it flew for 67.5 minutes to a range of 1,090 km (681 miles) and a maximum altitude of 6,248.5 km (3,905 miles).

After that launch, however, analysts and intelligence officials in South Korea and the United States had concluded that the North had actually launched a Hwasong-15, which was first tested in 2017.

North Korea first unveiled the previously unseen ICBM at an unprecedented pre-dawn military parade in October 2020, with analysts noting it appeared "considerably larger" than the Hwasong-15.

It was displayed a second time at a defence exhibition in Pyongyang in October 2021. After examining photos of the exhibit, analysts concluded the official designation of this large ICBM is most likely "Hwasong-17", not Hwasong-16.

Officials in Seoul and Washington said launches on Feb. 27 and March 5 involved the Hwasong-17 ICBM system, though they did not test its full capability or range.

Some analysts say those tests may have involved only one stage.

The Hwasong-17's size has prompted analysts to speculate that it will be designed to carry multiple warheads and decoys to better penetrate missile defenses.

Some observers said that the satellite technology that North Korea claimed to have tested in the Feb. 27 and March 5 launches could also be used for a multiple independently targetable reentry vehicle (MIRV) system, potentially allowing a single missile to drop nuclear warheads on different targets.

North Korea has made preparations to resume nuclear testing for the first time since 2017, South Korea and the United States say, and officials say new tests could help develop warheads for MIRV systems.

## F1 Launches New All-Female Racing Series

ABU DHABI (Dispatches) - Formula One launched an all-female racing series that is set to hit the track next year and prepare young girls to race in the sport.

The new category, which will be called F1 Academy, will feature five teams run by outfits currently competing in F1-feeder series Formula Two and Formula Three. They will each run three cars, creating a 15-strong grid, Formula One said in a statement.

Teams would select their own drivers, who would have to be at least 16 years of age, said F2 and F3 organizer Bruno Michel who will also run the new series.

Michel said they could come from senior karting, Formula 4, Formula Regional and even the existing W Series.

They will be required to bring 150,000 euros (\$155,520) in funding, with F1 matching that amount and teams raising the rest of the 2.25 million euro total budget.

Next year's inaugural season will comprise seven events with three races each at circuits that host Formula One and 15 days of official testing. But only one round is likely to race on the same weekend as Formula One.

The series will feature Tatuus T421 chassis fitted with a 165 horsepower engine and tyres from F1 supplier Pirelli, with the cars sharing the visual identity of their F3 and F2 counterparts.

"Everyone should have the opportunity to follow their dreams and achieve their potential and Formula One wants to ensure we are doing everything we can to create greater diversity and routes into this incredible sport," said F1 CEO Stefano Domenicali in the statement.

"That is why I am delighted to announce the F1 Academy that will give young female drivers the best chance to fulfil their ambitions through a comprehensive program that supports their racing careers and gives them everything they need to move into F3 and hopefully to F2 and then the pinnacle of Formula One."

F1's launch of the new all-female series comes after a cash crunch forced the existing W Series, which is free to enter and pays the championship winner \$500,000 out of a total \$1.5 million prize money pot, to cancel the last three races of its season last month.

Organizers at the time said they were confident the series, which debuted in 2019 and ran on F1's support bill this season, would return in 2023. There was no mention of prize money in the F1 Academy statement but Formula One said it would prepare young female drivers to progress to higher levels of competition including the W Series.

The F1 Academy would complement the W Series providing an "extra route for the next generation of young female drivers," the statement added.

W Series welcomed F1's announcement, adding it was looking forward to finalizing its plans for next year.

"Our objective from the start has always been to increase the talent pool of women racing drivers, and the addition of the F1 Academy as a feeder to W Series and other series is a further step in inspiring the next generation to progress up the motorsport ladder," series founder Catherine Bond Muir in a statement.

No female driver has started a grand prix since the late Italian Lella Lombardi, also the only woman to score a top six finish, in 1976.

## Blackouts Hit Ukraine's Small Businesses, and Wider Economy, Hard

KYIV (Dispatches) - Oleksii Revutskyi rolls his eyes when talking about the challenges Ukrainian businesses have faced lately.

"Two years of quarantine, a year of war - bring on the aliens already," said Revutskyi, head of technology at a stylish co-working space in Kyiv that could soon find itself reliant on power generators if Russian air strikes continue.

Having endured a pandemic and then the economic crunch that followed Russia's Feb. 24 invasion, Ukrainian businesses are struggling to adapt to widespread blackouts that have become a feature of daily life.

Russian forces have increasingly fired missiles at critical infrastructure such as power plants and substations as their losses on the battlefield mount, forcing providers into power cuts to preserve grid stability and complete repairs.

Officials said Tuesday's wave of attacks was the largest in nine months of war. Russia has said that the strikes on Ukraine are aimed at military and energy infrastructure.

For businesses, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that comprised around 60% of the Ukrainian economy and accounted for some 40% of tax revenue before the invasion, regular outages mean lost income and the inability to plan ahead.

Kateryna Markevych, lead expert of economic and social programmes at the Razumkov Centre think-tank in Kyiv, said SME activity had "significantly worsened" since the Russian strikes began in mid-October.

She added that many are being forced to splurge on accessories like generators or to make expensive concessions to retain customers.

Those lacking financial "safety cushions", or that are unable to secure favourable lines of credit in Ukraine's war-ravaged economy, could suspend operations or close altogether, she said.

Last week, Ukrainian Economy Minister Yulia Svyrydenko told reporters that Russian strikes on critical infrastructure could lead to a larger economic contraction this year than the 35% originally expected.

Revutskyi said his co-working space, Kooperativ, had attracted new visitors since advertising the fact that it was serviced by two different power lines and internet providers, allowing it to avoid most outages.

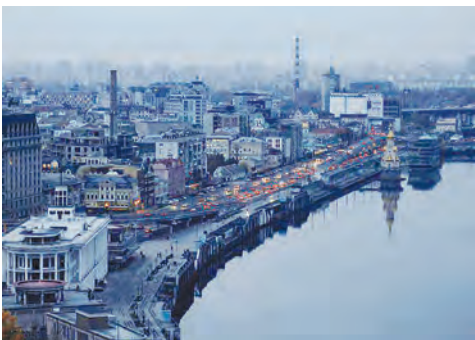
But ultimately, he said, that influx would not offset the cost of running either of their two generators for an extended period of time if they needed to.

Hosting events - another key moneymaker - had also become more difficult amid frequent air-raid alerts.

Last month, the chairman of the Ukrainian parliament's finance, tax and customs policy committee said the economy loses more than \$200 million each time nationwide alerts lasted the entire work day.

"Yes, we're surviving," said Revutskyi inside the lofted space. "But this isn't business."

Some larger enterprises appear to be better equipped to cope with the uncertainties.



But smaller businesses, especially those in the service industry, are under more pressure, often dependent on factors like client loyalty and a break from the landlord.

Sashko Borovsky, who co-owns two hip Kyiv cafes and runs another, said his businesses had benefited from both. The agility afforded to him by having a small staff also helped.

During sudden or planned outages, employees shift to alternate roles: Cashiers become greeters who politely turn customers away and cooks work on "cold procedures" like making sandwiches.

"Hate, fury - these emotions last for a few minutes," said Borovsky, describing the first moments after a Russian air strike that knocks out power. "Then you clear them and begin to think constructively."

But his projects generate far less income during outages, and while he holds weekly tactical meetings he is unable to plan his finances more than six weeks in advance.

Some experts warn that stabilising Ukraine's energy grid will be a long-term effort.

Oleksandr Kharchenko, director of the Energy Industry Research Center in Kyiv, estimated this week that it would be up to six weeks before it was repaired well enough for most customers to experience minimal or no cut-offs.

"But this is only assuming there are no further attacks," he told a briefing on Wednesday, a day before fresh Russian strikes on energy facilities and a defense plant.

Businesses in cities closer to the fighting, meanwhile, are more acutely affected by the flight of potential customers.

Oleksandr Chumak, president of the Association of Private Employers in Kharkiv, estimates the city's population of more than 1 million has plummeted to around 600,000 today.

"This makes it impossible for some of them to survive," he said.

Chumak added that 12% percent of businesses that had left Kharkiv have already decided against returning, and another 21% would only come back if it was safe and they could secure enough financing.

Still, both Borovsky and Revutskyi said many Ukrainians were now conditioned to a range of difficulties, so neither they nor their colleagues were panicking yet. Kyiv's military successes had also helped sustain a sense of purpose among the population.

A survey by Ukrainian market research firm Gradus found that 65% of businesses believed active fighting would be over by the end of 2023 at the latest. The poll was conducted in early November and included 203 respondents representing Ukrainian small, medium and large businesses.

For now, Borovsky said he was more preoccupied by his and others' mental health than potential economic losses he might incur.

"This is what I can control in that very moment - not the future of my business," he said. "I've made peace with this, and it's become easier for me."

### IRGC Bolstering Forces...

FROM PAGE 1

"While emphasizing that we consider the security of the region and the honorable and valiant people of the border provinces of the northwest as our red line, we strongly warn the armed villains and mercenary terrorists of the global arrogance that in case they press ahead with their villainy and create insecurity and disturbance for the people, the combatants of Hamzeh Seyed al-Shohada Base and other security forces will put decisive action against them on the agenda," it added.

The statement stressed that the enemies of the Iranian nation have experienced many times that the brave forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, alongside the valiant people of the region, have neutralized the plots of mercenary groups of global arrogance and protected lasting security and stability.

The IRGC announced on Friday that the forces had arrested all members of a terrorist team in West Azarbaijan Province for trying to smuggle weapons and ammunition into the country to be used in nationwide riots and destabilize Iranian cities.

The members of the terrorist team, who were directed by terrorist groups from across the border and some anti-revolutionary elements living in Western countries, were arrested before they could commit any terrorist act.

### Several EU States...

FROM PAGE 1

Then the managing director of Ministry of Foreign Affairs America Office, referring to the doubling of Iran-Brazil trade balance during the past year, said that Venezuela has requested to benefit from Iran's engineering and products, and Cuba has asked for broadening economic ties with Iran.

"The atmosphere and capacity for working with the countries in that region in very high and relying on precise planning we can take maximum advantage of that capacity," he added.

Also, referring to holding a session of the Iran-Hungary Joint Economic Commission, he said that Hungary has announced readiness for bilateral cooperation in university, agricultural, and economic fields, which will be documented during the Hungarian agriculture minister's visit of Tehran in early 2023.

Safari also said at the end that some European countries, too, have said they are willing to establish economic relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, asking the concerned officials to implement the reached understandings, and agreements as soon as possible.

### Iran Steel...

FROM PAGE 1

The Iranian Steel industry has been constantly developing over the past years against all the pressures and obstacles created by outside forces like the U.S. sanctions and the coronavirus outbreak that has severely affected the performance of the world's top producers.

The country is expected to climb to seventh place among the world's top steel producers by the Iranian calendar year 1404 (March 2025).

### Grossi Comments on...

FROM PAGE 1

These statements of Grossi were raised as the resolution proposed by the United States and the European Troika including UK, France and Germany, which was presented in continuation of the policy of maximum pressure and spreading accusations against the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding alleged safeguards issues, was approved at the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency on Thursday.

The Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency on Thursday approved an anti-Iranian resolution and asked Tehran to cooperate with this international body regarding the claim of "uranium particles found in three undeclared locations in Iran".

China and Russia opposed the anti-Iran resolution approved by the IAEA's Board of Governors.



## Benzema out of World Cup With Injury

PARIS (Dispatches) - France striker Karim Benzema has been ruled out of the World Cup in Qatar after suffering an injury in training, the French football federation said.

The Ballon d'Or winner, who has been struggling with a muscle problem, was forced to leave defending champions France's training session earlier on Saturday. "I am extremely sad for Karim who had made this World Cup a major objective. Despite this new blow for the French team, I have full confidence in my group. We will do everything to meet the huge challenge that awaits us," said coach Didier Deschamps in a statement.

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## Rahm Wins DP World Tour Championship in Dubai

DUBAI (Dispatches) - Jon Rahm won the DP World Tour Championship in Dubai by two shots as Rory McIlroy finished fourth to end the season as European number one for the fourth time.

Spaniard Rahm fired a closing 67 to finish on 20 under and seal a career hat-trick at Jumeirah Golf Estates.

England's Tyrrell Hatton and Sweden's Alex Noren shared second place after carding final rounds of 66 and 67 respectively with McIlroy ending at 16 under after a closing 68. Rahm reeled off three birdies before bogeying the fourth and came back with three more to stay ahead before making par at the 18th.

8 IRAN NEWS

SPORTS

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 22, 2022

# Verstappen Signs Off F1 2022 In Style in Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI (Dispatches) - Max Verstappen claimed a dominant Abu Dhabi GP victory to sign off his glittering 2022 title-winning season in style, though Charles Leclerc denied Red Bull a perfect finale by holding off Sergio Perez for second place in the race, and the championship.

A record-extending 15th win of a 22-race season never looked in danger for Verstappen after he held off his team-mate into the first corner from pole, although the battle behind was absorbing and went down to the final laps.

Leclerc and Perez came into the final race locked on points and the Ferrari was the big underdog behind the Red Bulls, although a two-stopping Perez could not catch Leclerc, who like Verstappen was one-stopping, in time.

Red Bull, left ruining a 1.3s gap at the chequered flag, therefore did not take the first one-two in the championship in their history.

"We had the perfect race," said Leclerc. I knew the only way for us to beat Checo was with a different strategy.

"I really hope next year we can make a step forward and fight for the championship."

Carlos Sainz was fourth in the other Ferrari, with Mercedes struggling in the last race of a difficult campaign.

Lewis Hamilton was running just ahead of a charging Sainz on the penultimate lap before suffering a hydraulic issue; Mercedes' first mechanical failure of the year. That sealed what was inevitable, Hamilton failing to win a race in a season for the first time in his 22-year career.

George Russell did finish the race, in fifth, although only after having to serve a five-second penalty for an unsafe release in the pits.

In his final race of a glittering and title-laden F1 career, Sebastian Vettel scored a point in the Aston Martin - although wanted more after a one-stop strategy saw him fall back behind his team-mate Lance Stroll, and Alpine's Esteban Ocon.

## Hawks Swoop In Overtime for Win Over Raptors

LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - Trae Young scored 33 points and lofted a pass from midcourt to rookie AJ Griffin for the game-winning alley-oop layup at the buzzer in the Atlanta Hawks' 124-122 NBA overtime victory over the Toronto Raptors.

Young handed out 12 assists for the Hawks, who shook off a blowout loss to the Boston Celtics on Wednesday and avenged their defeat to the Raptors in October.

Despite a slew of injury absences that included key contributor Pascal Siakam, Toronto led 108-101 with 2:36 remaining in the fourth quarter.

The Hawks responded with a 10-0 run to take a two-point lead with less than a minute remaining, and Raptors guard Scottie Barnes missed a putback attempt at the buzzer that would have won it.

Griffin played 30 minutes off the bench and scored eight of his 17 points in overtime, his driving floater with 1:58 to play giving Atlanta a 118-115 lead.

"He plays with a lot of poise and made some big shots tonight," Hawks coach Nate McMillan said of the 19-year-old.

The Hawks were up 120-117 after Young's layup with 28.2 seconds remaining, but the Raptors -- with the help of a dunk by OG Anunoby -- had it knotted at 122-122 with 3.8 seconds left.

On the ensuing inbound Young got the ball at half court and fired an arching pass to Griffin under the basket for a wide open game-winner.

"He saw the ending," said a beaming Griffin, who delighted in the celebratory ice-water dousing he got from his teammates after the win.

It came down to the wire in Philadelphia, where the Minnesota Timberwolves turned back a late charge from the 76ers for a 112-109 victory.

The Indiana Pacers pulled out a close one, edging the Orlando Magic 114-113. The Timberwolves led by as many as 17 in the third quarter and by 13 going into the final frame.

But the short-handed 76ers, fueled by 32 points from Joel Embiid and 27 from Shake Milton, trimmed the deficit to one point on De'Anthony Melton's three-pointer with 29.1 seconds remaining.



Alpine career before he replaces Vettel in the Aston Martin for 2023.

Verstappen's victory may not have been a surprise at Yas Marina, but Perez losing out to Leclerc certainly was.

Perez came into the last race with more momentum, speed and a better starting position to Leclerc, who hadn't won a race since July's Austrian GP and hadn't finished higher than third for four races.

But Leclerc, who is so often left behind by the Red Bulls over race pace with Ferrari's sub-optimal tyre management, reversed form and kept with the Red Bulls in the first stint, and particularly, the second.

His pace behind Verstappen and Perez forced Red Bull into a second stop for the Mexican with 25 laps remaining.

In a move eerily similar to the reverse of this last year, Hamilton holds up Perez in the final race of the season

Perez was around a second-a-lap faster than Leclerc on fresh tyres, though was potentially crucially held up by Hamilton - with the Mercedes driver overtaking him in a roles reversal from last year's controversial Abu Dhabi decider - though the Monegasque, and Verstappen, managed to expertly retain pace on wearing rubber.

Leclerc kept Perez out of DRS range on the final lap and crossed the chequered flag a second ahead to seal his best-ever-championship finish.

"When you look at the season it's still surpassed anything we could have ever imagined or what we've ever managed to achieve," Red Bull boss Christian Horner told Sky Sports F1.

## Djokovic to Meet Ruud in ATP Final Championship



TURIN (Dispatches) - Norwegian Casper Ruud is all that stands between Novak Djokovic and a record-equaling sixth ATP Finals title, after the Serbian former number one beat American Taylor Fritz 7-6(5) 7-6(6) in the Turin semi-final.

The 21-times major champion overcame a barrage of aces from Fritz, outlasting the Indian Wells winner despite having a bad day in his own opinion, and produced fewer errors at the Pala Alpitour to move to within one win of matching Roger Federer's record at the season finale.

"I had to fight to survive," the 35-year-old said in remarks provided by the ATP.

"I didn't feel very reactive today or very comfortable... I am very pleased to have overcome this one as I don't think it was one of my best days with my tennis but I managed to hang in there."

If Djokovic wins the final, he will claim the biggest prize in tennis history, cashing in \$4,740,300 for lifting the tournament trophy undefeated.

But he will have to tame Ruud first, who confidently swatted aside an error-prone Andrey Rublev 6-2 6-4 in their semi-final affair.

Rublev unravelled quickly, punching his bench in frustration after dropping his serve for the second time in the first set, and Ruud added to the pain when he broke the Russian again to open the second set.



# Schumacher Would Be Good Fit as Mercedes Reserve

ABU DHABI (Dispatches) - Mick Schumacher would be a good fit as a Formula One reserve for Mercedes but a deal had yet to be agreed, team boss Toto Wolff said.

The 23-year-old Schumacher, son of seven-times world champion Michael, is without a drive next year after American team Haas opted to replace him with the returning Nico Hulkenberg.

Schumacher, whose father raced sportscars for Mercedes as part of their young driver programme early in his career and then made a three-year Formula One comeback with

them, has been linked to a reserve role with the Brackley-based team.

His uncle Ralf also drove for Mercedes in his post-F1 DTM career while Ralf's son David currently races a Mercedes-AMG GT3 Evo in the touring car series.

"Mick is someone that has always been close to our heart because of Michael or the whole Schumacher family," Wolff told reporters at the season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.

"We believe that we can look after him if the situation were to happen... but we haven't really put pen to paper, we haven't really come anywhere close to any terms.

"I think he just fits and now we need to make it happen, if he wants to, (manager) Sabine (Kehm) wants to and then we see where that goes to," he added.

Schumacher, the 2020 Formula Two champion, made his Formula One debut with Haas in 2021.

## Qatar First World Cup Hosts To Lose Opener

AL KHOR (Dispatches) - Qatar became the first home team to lose their opening World Cup match as Ecuador cruised to a 2-0 victory over the hosts, with Enner Valencia scoring twice in the tournament curtain-raiser on Sunday.

Asian champions Qatar enjoyed the backing of the majority of the crowd at the 60,000-capacity Al Bayt Stadium, but could not follow a glitzy opening ceremony with a statement performance.

Ecuador thought they had made a dream start when they silenced the home fans as Valencia headed in, only for the goal to be ruled out by VAR for an offside in the build-up.

Valencia did break the deadlock with a penalty in the 16th minute and doubled his tally just after the half-hour mark.

Qatar improved slightly in the second period, but by the end of the 90 minutes, the excitement which greeted the build-up -- featuring Morgan Freeman and BTS star Jung Kook -- was a distant memory as thousands of fans left early amid a deflated atmosphere.

Felix Sanchez's Qatar will likely need a positive result in their second Group A match against Senegal on Friday just to avoid the ignominy of becoming only the second hosts, after South Africa in 2010, to be dumped out in the first round.

Hopes were high among the crowd that Qatar could make a winning start, but the deficiencies of the World Cup debutants were ruthlessly exposed by an impressive Ecuador.



## Ronaldo Is in Spectacular Form

DOHA (Dispatches) - Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal team mate Ruben Neves says his captain is in "spectacular" shape as the team prepare for their opening World Cup match against Ghana on Thursday.

Wolves midfielder Neves, one of the leaders of the changing room, dismissed any speculation that 37-year-old Ronaldo was not in peak form, saying he looked like his old self in training.

"From what I've seen in training, he's in spectacular shape," Neves told a news conference in tournament host Qatar on Sunday. "He doesn't worry us at all, we as a team know perfectly well what we need to work on so that each individual stands out on gameday."

"If we're good as a team, Cristiano will be phenomenal."

Neves also said Cristiano Ronaldo's explosive TV interview, in which the Manchester United forward said he had been betrayed by the club and was being forced out, had not been a distraction in the Portugal changing room.

He said the furore had nothing to do with the national squad.

"Sure, it's impossible for us to walk around without being asked about the controversy, but I don't think there's any controversy at all between us in the changing room," added 25-year-old Neves. "We have a spectacular environment right here."

