

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani Arrived in the Qatari Capital on Tuesday for Talks on Issues of Bilateral Importance and Regional and International Negotiations as Well

IRAN NEWS

Health Ministry Announced on Tuesday That the Number of Deaths From the Coronavirus Pandemic in Iran Stayed Unchanged at 144,633 With Another Zero Death Day Over the Past 24 Hours

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Tehran Calls for Bringing Criminal U.S., German Companies to Justice

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran says those German and American companies that have provided former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein with the chemical weapons during its 1980s imposed war are complicit in these crimes and must be brought to justice.

Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs, Reza Najafi, made the remarks while addressing the 27th Conference of States Parties (CSP-27) Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in the Hague.

"As the biggest victim of chemical weapons in the contemporary history, Iran neither forgives nor forgets the perpetrators and supporters of Iraq's chemical attacks and these crimes," the Iranian diplomat added.

Najafi urged the OPCW member states to fulfill their commitments and remove the inhumane unilateral sanctions imposed on Iran in violation of the human rights principles, which blocked the access of Iranian chemical veterans to their required equipment and medicines, saying all these bans must be removed immediately. **See Page 7**

Iran Removes Import Ban for Some Pakistani Products

TEHRAN (MNA) - Under the framework of a preferential trade agreement between Iran and Pakistan, Tehran has lifted the import ban on certain products exclusively shipped from Pakistan.

Accordingly, Iranian importers have been allowed to register import application forms for some products that were previously on the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration's (IRICA) import ban list; however, the country of origin for the said items must solely be Pakistan.

Tehran and Islamabad have been taking new measures for broadening economic ties as the Iranian government is promoting economic diplomacy in the region.

Earlier this month, a delegation of businessmen and private sector representatives from the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) visited Pakistan to meet with Pakistani officials and explore avenues of mutual cooperation.

Getting acquainted with Pakistan's trade laws and regulations, familiarizing with the country's business capacities and investment fields as well as exploring ways to increase the level of transit between the two countries were among the major goals of the Iranian delegation's visit to the country. **See Page 7**

Tehran, Baghdad Resolute On Fight Against Terrorism



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - President Ebrahim Raisi says Iran and Iraq attach special significance to the promotion of peace and stability in the region, stressing that both states are firmly determined to fight the source of terrorism and regional insecurity.

The Iranian president made the remarks while speaking in a joint press conference with new Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani, who arrived in Tehran on Tuesday on his first visit at the head of a high-ranking politico-economic delegation.

"From the point of view of Iran and the Iraqi government, security, peace and stability in the region are very important and therefore, the fight against terrorist groups, organized crimes, drug trafficking and any [source of] insecurity that threatens the region is among [issues of] the agreements and common will of the two countries," Raisi said.

He added that only the countries in the region should ensure regional security, stability and peace, stressing, "The presence of foreign forces in the region does not bring in security at all but it is a problem in addition to our problems."

As the US presence in Afghanistan and Iraq has failed to promote security, it would also fail to result in any outcome in other parts of the region, the Iranian chief executive said, emphasizing, "American forces withdrawal from the region can greatly definitely contribute to the security of the region."

Elsewhere in the presser, Raisi said ties between Tehran and Baghdad are rooted in the two nations' beliefs and expressed hope the two sides would further expand cultural, political, social and security cooperation.

"The presence of the Iraqi prime minister in the Islamic Republic of Iran is a turning point in the relations between the two countries and these negotiations can definitely be a major step towards improving ties," he added.

The Iranian president noted that economic, trade, monetary and banking issues as well as the export of electricity and gas are also on the agenda of the talks between the two sides' delegations. Iran and Iraq have common stance on mutual, regional and international relations which would definitely help the two countries promote ties at regional and international levels, Raisi pointed out.

The Iraqi prime minister said his country would not allow terrorist groups to use its soil to harm any country, particularly Iran.

Sudani added that the inseparable security of Iran and Iraq is complementary to each other and is a part of the regional security.

He said the Iraqi government is ready to establish a working mechanism with Iran to prevent any tension as it believes that dialogue and interaction are the best solution to the woes.

The prime minister hailed Iran's advisory presence in Iraq and its role in the battle against Daesh terrorists and stressed the importance of strengthening joint cooperation to fight terrorism and illicit drugs.

Al Sudani stressed that Iraq is trying to pay Iran's arrears through special mechanisms.

From Iraq's view, interaction is the best way to avoid problems, he said emphasizing the Iraqi government's commitment to cooperate with the Islamic Republic of Iran in all common fields.

The Iraqi people and government do not forget Iran's support against ISIS, he said.

He emphasized the importance of joint cooperation in fighting against terrorism and illegal drugs. He noted that the two sides will discuss transferring crude.

Earlier on Tuesday and during the meeting after the welcoming ceremony, Raisi said that the Islamic Republic of Iran always supports the united nation and strong government in Iraq.

Emphasizing the determination of Iran to expand cooperation and improve the level of relations with Iraq in the economic, commercial, political, cultural, and security fields, he added that Iran seeks to develop exchanges with Iraq in various commercial and energy fields. "Holding regular meetings of the joint cooperation commission between the two countries can play an effective role in realizing this goal."

"The relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq are privileged, and the strengthening and deepening of bilateral relations should lead to the expansion and improvement of the level of regional and international interactions in order to establish as much peace and stability in the region and the world as possible," Raisi underlined.

For his part, Al-Sudani said that Iran has a privileged and excellent position in Iraq's foreign policy, and the relations between the two countries are expanding in a favorable and satisfactory manner.

ViewPoint
By: Hamid Reza Naghashian
Trigger a War and Make a Profit

For centuries the British policy of "divide and rule" had been dominating the world and world arrogant countries mainly the UK had been, and still, using this policy in order to keep the influence over the nations for looting their wealth or controlling their governments but in recent centuries the policy of "trigger a war and make a profit" has dominated the world policy especially by its mentor the U.S. as this country tries to make profit by provoking countries for engagement in wars.

There are several examples for this policy in different parts of the world because this policy makes "fat and rich" the Western and mainly American arms manufacturers. The recent Ukraine-Russia war is one of the tangible examples for this policy of making profit by waging or triggering wars that the American arms sellers are gradually making money out of it.

On Monday a report confirmed that the U.S. wants to sell new weapons to Ukraine to help this country continue war against Russian forces.

The United States is reportedly considering a proposal to provide Ukraine with cheap, small precision bombs, which would allow Kiev to strike far behind Russian lines, as the war drags on and the West struggles to meet demands for more weapons.

Citing industry sources, Reuters said in a report on Monday that the Pentagon was considering a Boeing proposal, dubbed Ground-Launched Small Diameter Bomb (GLSDB), for getting new munitions into production for Ukraine and America's Eastern European allies.

The GLSDB's 150km range would allow Ukraine to hit valuable military targets that have been out of reach and help it continue pressing its counterattacks by disrupting Russian rear areas, according to the report said.

GLSDB is GPS-guided, can defeat some electronic jamming, is usable in all weather conditions, and can be used against armored vehicles.

The GBU-39 - which would function as the GLSDB's warhead - has small, folding wings that allow it to glide more than 100km if dropped from an aircraft and targets as small as 3 feet in diameter.

GLSDB could be delivered as early as spring 2023, according to a document reviewed by Reuters and three people familiar with the plan.

It combines the GBU-39 Small Diameter Bomb (SDB) with the M26 rocket motor, both of which are common in US inventories. **See Page 7**

Russian Gas Could Revive Iran-Pakistan Pipeline Project

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran can tap Russian gas for a revival of its long-installed pipeline project to neighboring Pakistan.

Under a plan being discussed between Iran, Russia and Pakistan, Russia has agreed to supply gas to Iran for the purpose of delivery to Pakistan via the Iranian pipelines.

Russians have also agreed to build pipelines in Pakistan that were supposed to be built by the Pakistani side of a 1995 gas supply contract with Iran.

Reports indicate that Iranian Oil Minister Javad Owji discussed the issue in phone calls with senior Russian and Pakistani government officials earlier this week.

Russia's contribution to the scheme comes as the country is trying to find new markets for natural gas supplies that were removed from the European markets because of Western sanctions on Moscow over the war in Ukraine.

Iran is also keen to partner with Russia in supplying gas to Pakistan as the country could benefit financially from the project while increased gas supplies from Russia will help the country address potential gas shortages in its northern regions. **See Page 7**

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Agent of an Arab Intelligence Service Arrested

BANDAR ABBAS (IRNA) - The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has arrested an agent of an unnamed Arab intelligence service as he was planning to carry out sabotage in the country's south.

An IRGC statement issued on Tuesday said that the intelligence unit of the force had arrested the agent in Bandar Lengeh, a port on the Persian Gulf coast that is located to the west of the province of Hormozgan. The statement said that the agent was working for the intelligence service of a Persian Gulf "reactionary state", a term frequently used by Iranian authorities in recent years to identify certain Arab countries in the region with close links to Western powers.

Universities Alive, Dynamically Functioning Despite Enemies' Efforts

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN – The government spokesman said on Tuesday that despite enemies' strenuous efforts to stop science generation in Iran, universities are alive and dynamically functioning in Islamic Iran.

Speaking at his presser, Ali Bahadori Jahromi said: "Thanks to all-out enmity of the foes who wanted to stop science generation in Iran, which accelerates the production and problem solving in other sectors, and with all the power, the enemies, wanted to stop it, but despite all this, the universities are still active, progressive and alive, moving the scientific path along."

He added, "During the COVID-19, we saw closures both at the school and university level, but this year Iran's universities and schools were open, active and dynamic, and almost all classes were held on a regular basis, and God willing, the same path will continue, and the government supports it as well. The academic environment will be open to solve problems in the country."

The government's red line is the interruption in the flow of science generation in Iran, and will not allow any factor to hinder the flow of production in the country, he noted.

The spokesman pointed to the anti-Iranian media and said: "These media are identified as terrorist groups by the government and the foreign ministry due to their performance and support for terror and terrorism."

Considering that hostile media are terrorists, Bahadri Jahromi said that all legal and political measures necessary to deal with them are on the agenda, and the owners of these media and those who cooperate with them will be charged, and the National Security Council and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will be responsible.

On Tehran's reaction to the human rights resolution against Iran, he said: "Germany, one of the founders of the resolution, has a long history of anti-human rights actions."



He also mentioned the chemical bombing of Iranian cities by the Saddam's regime and said: "These actions were carried out with the support of the racist German regime, and we expect the country that caused such tragedies to be held responsible for more than 6 thousand chemical bombs that were used against Iran during Saddam's regime."

"If a fact-finding committee is to be formed, it should be against those who provided chemical bombs to Saddam and against countries that support terrorist media," the spokesman noted.

Meanwhile on Monday, the spokesman said that Germany will not be exonerated from the crimes it committed against the Iranian people through political propaganda.

In a tweet on Monday, Bahadori Jahromi wrote: "A state that once assisted the dead Iraqi dictator Saddam in bombarding the Iranian men and women and children in Kurdistan and once followed the imposition of illegal sanctions on the Iranian nation, today pretend to defend human rights for political motives."

The adoption of the resolutions means the UNHRC's agreement with the formation of a fact-finding committee to investigate the claims about the violation of human rights in Iran.

Syrian FM Denounces UNHRC Anti-Iran Resolution

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Syrian Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad, during a phone conversation with his Iranian counterpart on Monday, condemned the recent resolution adopted against Iran by the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC).

The top Syrian diplomat also condemned Western countries for exploiting international mechanisms for their own political purposes.

In addition to the HRC resolution, Mekdad and Iran FM Hossein Amirabdollahian discussed Tehran-Damascus relations as well as regional and international developments.

That resolution, adopted on November 24 at the HRC special session on Iran, addressed what it described as "the deteriorating human rights situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran" in the wake of the recent rights in the country.

Iran dismissed the resolution as a "political scam", expressing regret that the Human Rights Council is being misused by a group of bullying governments.

Iran says the riots are backed by certain Western countries including the UK and the US.

Combined Cycle Power Plant of Chadormalu Ranks First

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN – According to the annual assessment of Iran Grid Management Company, the Sarv Combined Cycle Power Plant of Chadormalu Mining and Industrial Company ranked first among the thermal power plants of the country in the spring of this year with scoring highest points in terms of energy production rate.

Winning the top rank means earning the highest revenues comparing to other power plants in terms of each megawatt of producible electrical power.

It is worth noting that the 500-megawatt Sarv Combined Cycle Power Plant of Chadormalu came on stream in 2016 in this industrial complex in the town of Ardakan in Yazd Province.



Relying on Domestic Capabilities to Bring Real Independence



TEHRAN (IRNA) - Chief of Staff of Iran's Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Bagheri has said that self-reliance is the only way to reach real independence and honor.

The major general made the remarks on the sidelines of the opening ceremony of the national knowledge-based technological exhibition of Basij in Tehran on Tuesday, noting that the experiences of last 43 years show that self-reliance and self-sufficiency is the only way, which can bring real independence and honor to the country, and that Thank God, the exhibition showcases the Iranians are taking important steps to this end.

In different sections of the exhibition, we have seen numerous innovations, he said, adding that the Basiji forces have succeeded in manufacturing many imported products of better quality and price, while they paid heed to environmental aspects as well as a decrease of energy consumption.

Some government apparatus as well as factories have utilized the Basij-made products, while there are still several other sectors, which can use them, he noted.

The chief of staff of Iran's Armed Forces went on to say that he urges all producers as well as private and public companies to visit the exhibition and sign contracts with the knowledge-based firms, noting that the armed forces and the Basij Organization will facilitate the cooperation.

We use many of the equipment and capabilities in the armed forces, Bagheri said, emphasizing that he will order his entities to make use of the achievements more than ever in order to promote confidence-building in this respect.

Polish FM Hopes Sanctions Removal Talks Bear Fruit

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Polish Foreign Minister Zbigniew Rau has called Iran a key partner of Poland in West Asia, expressing hope that the negotiations aimed at removing the anti-Iran sanctions yield positive results.

The Polish official made the comment during his phone conversation with Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian.

The two top diplomats discussed Tehran-Warsaw relations, which Amirabdollahian described as good.



Both sides also exchanged views on international developments.

The sanctions removal talks have been ongoing between Iran and the remaining signatories to the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), since April 2021.

Those talks began in Vienna three years after the JCPOA was thrown into disarray due to the US withdrawal from the accord, which reinstated the sanctions that had been lifted under the JCPOA.

Iran Police Impedes Drug Smuggling to Europe

TEHRAN (MNA) – Tehran Police Chief Brigadier General Hossein Rahimi announced that dozens of kilograms of narcotics, especially crystal that was set to be smuggled from Tehran to Europe were seized by the Iranian anti-narcotics police.

Rahimi added that 4 large industrial drug production laboratories were identified and dismantled in the city.

4.2 tons of different kinds of narcotics, including opium, hashish, crystal, and marijuana were confiscated during the Police operation, according to Rahimi.

16 major gangs importing drugs to the Iranian capital have been also identified and dismantled, he added. 1,658 kilograms of narcotics were confiscated at the entrance to Tehran and the smugglers were arrested, according to him. 272 kg of narcotics were also busted in Tehran.

177 major smugglers were also arrested and 19 of their vehicles were seized as well.

Iran is on the frontline of the fight against drug trafficking and thousands of Iranian forces have been so far martyred to protect the world from the danger of drugs.

Despite high economic and human costs, the Islamic Republic has been actively fighting drug trafficking over the past four decades.

52nd Roshd Int'l Film Festival Opens

TEHRAN (MNA) – The 52nd edition of the Roshd International Film Festival opened in the Iranian capital on Tuesday.

Known as the oldest festival in West Asia and one of the oldest in Asia, the 52nd edition of the Roshd International Film Festival kicked off on Tuesday in the presence of the Minister of Education Yousef Nouri.

Secretary of Roshd Film Festival Sadegh Yazdani introduced student filmmakers, teacher filmmakers, and international scope as the three main sections of the festival and noted that 2,473 foreign and 987 domestic works had been sent to the secretariat of the festival.

Yazdani further noted that the 104 films were chosen from over 3,460 submissions.

Iran's Roshd International Film Festival is dedicated to films with educational and pedagogical themes and is organized every year by the Supplying Educational Media Center, a sub-branch of the Ministry of Education of Iran. The Festival seeks the main objectives of identifying and selecting the best educational and pedagogical films in order to introduce them to the educational system.

The 52nd edition of the event will be held at Palestine Movie Theater in Tehran from November 29 to December 4.



Iran Ranks First in Health in Region

TEHRAN (IP) - Minister of Health, referring to the growth and progress of the health of Iranians after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, said that Iran ranks first in terms of health indicators in the region.

On the sidelines of the 7th Health and Commanders Conference held at the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Headquarters in Tehran, Iran's Health Minister, Bahram Eynollahi, said: Our nurses have shown that they are the best in the world. During the Covid epidemic, we saw that they worked three shifts day and night among sick patients.

In the Congress of the World Health Organization in Cairo, it was announced that Iran ranks first in all areas, but tobacco is much higher than other countries.

Eynollahi stated that, despite the destructive propaganda of hostile media, the performance of the Ministry of Health of Iran has been successful.

MP Urges Iran to Keep Up Uranium Enrichment

TEHRAN (IFP) - An Iranian lawmaker plays down a Western-drafted resolution recently passed against Iran at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), saying the country must ignore the "hype" and keep up its uranium enrichment.

Jabbar Kouchaki told the Entekhab news portal that the resolution, which was approved by the IAEA's Board of Governors earlier this month, is only part of a hype meant to exert pressure on Iran, and that the country should not pay attention to it.

The resolution, backed by the US, the UK, Germany and France, accuses Iran of non-cooperation with the IAEA.

Kouchaki described Iran's retaliatory move to begin enrichment to 60% purity at the Fordow nuclear site as a "positive" step.

The lawmaker said the IAEA has already confirmed the peaceful nature of the Iranian nuclear program but passes hostile resolutions against Tehran "under the influence of enemies."

Enemies of Iran, he added, are now trying to put pressure on Iran from abroad after failing to achieve their goals by fueling riots inside the country.

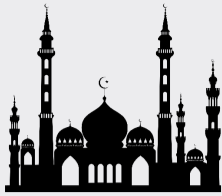
CIA-Linked Agents Arrested During Recent Riots

TEHRAN (MNA) - Ali Fadavi, IRGC deputy commander-in-chief, said Tuesday that the Iranian intelligence forces arrested a number of spy agents who were linked to the U.S. intelligence services during recent foreign-orchestrated riots.

Speaking in a gathering of commanders of IRGC medical personnel in Tehran on Tuesday, Brigadier general Fadavi said that the enemies have constantly been plotting against Iran since the Islamic Revolution over the past 44 years but they have always failed.

He added that during the recent riots in the country, which were orchestrated by the Western states, a number of spy agents linked to the US intelligence services were detained and have been handed over to the judicial authorities for prosecution.

"These people were not only related to the [Iran] International [TV], which operates under the enemy's spy services but these people were related to the US intelligence and spy services."



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	11:53
■ Evening (Maghreb)	17:11
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	05:26
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:55

48. "Verily it has been revealed to us that the Penalty (awaits)

those who reject and turn away."

49. (When this message was delivered), (Pharaoh) said:

"Who, then, O Moses, is the Lord of you two?"

Surah 20. Ta-ha (48-49)

Iran, UAE Confer Investment Project In Food Security

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Mr. Alireza Peyman-Pak in meeting with the UAE's Ambassador to Tehran Saif Mohammed Al Zaabi reviewed hurdles in way of boosting trade between the two countries and called for strengthening trade ties.

In the meeting, UAE Ambassador Mr. Al Zaabi termed Iran as an important trade partner of his country and emphasized the UAE government's determination for boosting trade with Iran.

Meanwhile Mr. Peyman-Pak reiterated that the UAE is one of Iran's trade partners and pointed to appointing a commercial attache by Iran for the UAE. He noted that soon the commercial attache will be settled in the UAE while Iran's trade center has recently been activated in Dubai and it is busy with the commercial affairs and helping traders of both states.



He then pointed to the co-operations and joint investments of both states, adding that this investment can be done in the field of agro products and food security on Iran's land, or production of these products in the third party country as well as cooperation in producing medicines and medical equipment.

The UAE Ambassador then welcomed Peyman-Pak's suggestions for pursuing these issues and transferring them to the UAE government.

Then both sides reviewed the way of using and investment of the UAE in the South-North Corridor, implementing joint projects, removing hurdles in way of monetary and banking transactions and transit of goods on route of Turkey-Iran and the UAE.

Iran-Russia Business Council to Kick Off

TEHRAN (MNA) - Iran-Russia Business Council will start its work today (Wednesday) with the aim of removing the trade and industrial barriers between Iranian and Russian companies.

Concurrent with the visit of Iran's Deputy Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade and Head of Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPOI) Alireza Payman-Pak to Russia and the dispatching of a 50-member trade delegation from Isfahan province to Russia, the Iran-Russia Business Council will begin today.

As a joint council between the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPOI) and the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, Iran-Russia Business Council will be set up with the aim of removing obstacles facing ahead of industrial and commercial cooperation between the Iranian and Russian parties.

The council will be held with the participation of Iran's Deputy Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade and the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (RSPP).

IDRO Gets ISO9001:2015 Certificate



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Industrial Development and Renovation Organization of Iran (IDRO) after the final auditing received the Quality Management System ISO9001:2015 certificate.

IDRO was evaluated based on the international standard ISO9001:2015 with an eye on improving constant quality of its process and activities, and deployment and implementation of quality management system, and the organization could get the related certificate from SGS Institute.

During the ceremony for granting the certificate, Mohammad Hossein Saber, a member of board of directors of IDRO, pointed to the developmental role of the organization and said that one of the properties of the developmental organizations is their leadership and to be leader, it needs major actions in the field of identifying the ills, weak and strong points, opportunities and threats as well as having courage for renovation and fast decision-making which ultimately it leads to customer's satisfaction.

On the whole, the ISO9001 covers the way of management of an organization for meeting its needs and expectations of customers, and legal requirements, and it is used for all non-profit and profit enterprises regardless of their size and types of products and services.

This standard assigns some requirements for planning and implementing of the quality management system and it can provide minimum conditions for the organizational success and excellence.

Over \$95m of Pistachios Exported To EU in 9 Months



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN- Iran has exported over \$95 million of pistachios to the European Union (EU) member states during the first nine months of 2022, IRNA reported citing the data released by the European Union's statistics office, Eurostat.

Iran's pistachio export to the union has dropped 39 percent in the first nine months of this year, from \$154 million in the same period of time in the past year, the Eurostat data indicate.

The Islamic Republic was the second biggest exporter of pistachios to Europe after the United States in the mentioned nine months.

Germany, Spain, and Italy were the top importers of Iranian pistachios in January-September 2022, according to Eurostat data.

Although Iran is mostly known for its vast hydrocarbon resources, there are some other precious products that people all around the world put the Iranian brand on and appreciate greatly, one such product is Iranian "green gold" or pistachio.

Cultivation of pistachios in Iran dates back to the Achaemenid period or the fifth century B.C.; Like the great dynasty, the Islamic Republic was the world's unrivaled, leading producer of pistachios for a long time, with southeastern Kerman province being the hub of production for so-called green gold.

Over the past decade, climate change has caused severe drought in Iran, leading to 85 percent of the country being classified as arid or semi-arid. The decline in annual average rainfall and shortage of surface water has forced farmers to dig more wells to pump water from underground reserves. Nearly half of the 750,000 wells dug in Iranian farms are illegal, which indicates why the unconstrained use of underground water in agriculture is the main source of water waste in the country.

The situation is the same in Kerman province, which accounts for 70 percent of Iran's pistachio production. As announced by Hossein Rezai, the secretary-general of the Iran Pistachio Association (IPA), the production of pistachio in Iran fell by 70,000 tons in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20) to hover at around 150,000 tons.

Loading, Unloading of Goods in Ports Up 8%

TEHRAN (MNA) - The loading and unloading of goods in the ports of Iran increased by eight percent in the first eight months of the present Iranian calendar year (March 21-November 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, the country's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) announced.

As the PMO reported, 142,768,983 tons of commodities were loaded and unloaded in the ports during the eight-month period.

During the said period, loading and unloading operations in the container sector reached 1,664,494 TEUs, which was 12 percent more than the 1,498,498 TEUs in the first eight months of the past year.

Based on the data previously released by Transport and Urban Development Ministry, the loading and unloading of goods in the ports of Iran rose 17 percent during the previous Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), as compared to the preceding year.

The ministry's data show that the loading and unloading of goods in the country's ports reached 152.91 million tons in the previous Iranian calendar year, while the figure stood at 130.69 million tons in the preceding year.

During the said year, loading and unloading operations in the container sector reached 2.1 million TEUs with a weight of 24.57 million tons, which was 13.5 percent more than the 1.85 million TEUs in the Iranian calendar year 1399, the report said.

The loading and unloading of goods during the previous year also grew by 12.8 percent in the dry bulk sector, while in the liquid bulk sector the figure increased by 12.6 percent, in the general cargo sector rose by 13.1 percent, and in the oil sector grew by 22.5 percent.

While Iran is combating the U.S. unilateral sanctions on its economy, the country's ports as the major gates of exports and imports play a significant role in this battle. This role makes all-out support to ports and more development of them serious and vital.

Such necessity has led the government to define projects for more development of the ports and also take some measures to encourage investment making in ports, in addition to facilitating the loading and unloading of goods, especially basic commodities, there.

Over 138,000 Tons of Alumina Powder Produced

TEHRAN (MNA) - Iran produced 138,019 tons of alumina powder in the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-October 22), according to the data released by Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO).

The production of alumina powder in the country has risen 1,379 tons (one percent) in the seven-month period of this year from that of the previous year.

Based on the data previously released by IMIDRO, Iran has produced 230,682 tons of alumina powder in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20).

The IMIDRO's data put the alumina powder output at 231,612 tons in year 1399.

Aluminum oxide, which is commonly called alumina, is an inert, odorless, white amorphous material often used in industrial ceramics.

Alumina is an important ceramic material for industrial applications. The numerous fields of application range from construction materials,

to filling materials, as well as abrasives and catalysts.

In plants and mechanical engineering, alumina ceramics are mainly used for wear and corrosion protection.

The particle size distribution largely determines the application range and the quality of an alumina powder. Reliably identifying the differences in particle size is therefore an essential requirement of the measuring instrument.

Iran Trade With China Tops \$13b

TEHRAN (MNA) - Iran's commercial exchanges with its leading trade partner, China, reached \$13.34 billion during the first 10 months of 2022, registering a 14.8% rise compared with the corresponding period of the year before.

Latest data released by China's General Administration of Customs show Iran's exports totaled \$5.72 billion during the period, indicating a 9.1% year-on-year increase.

In return, China exported \$7.61 billion worth of goods to Iran, registering a 19.5% YOY rise, Financial Tribune reported. Bilateral trade hit \$1.03 billion in October 2022 with Iran's exports at \$364.87 million and imports at \$673.61 million.

Festival of First Word Water for Nomads of Isfahan Province

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

ISFAHAN – For the first time in Isfahan Province, the festival of first word water was held with the participation of 220 nomad students in the town of Samirom.

The manager of Water and Wastewater Company of Samirom (ABFA of Samirom) said that in recent years some non-stop efforts have been put on the agenda for sustainable water supply in the rural and nomadic areas and this has both brought economic boom and welfare as well as improving health condition, and also stabilizing population and surge in production among all walks of the life.

Majid Saberi said that required culturalization is needed for waste of drinking water sources for the nomads, adding that for required drinking water supply for nomads, considerable costs are spent because of distance and improper water supply route. He noted that therefore it needs culturalization to prevent excessive waste of drinking water resources in the nomadic communities.

He went on to say that unfortunately the water consumption among the nomads is above the normal consumption and it makes necessary culturalization and promoting the culture of the efficient water consumption for them.

Saberi noted that in the first seminar of the first word water it has been tried to make acquainted the students with efficient consumption through entertaining programs like puppet show, poems, music and competition.

The nomadic population living in Isfahan Province is over 60,000 people in 11,000 households. The town of Samirom which is located in the south of Isfahan Province hosted the first festival for promoting efficient water consumption.



Russia Summons Norwegian Ambassador

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russia's Foreign Ministry said it had summoned the Norwegian ambassador over what it said was the politically-motivated arrest of Russian citizens for using drones illegally, while Norway said the arrests were legal.

Several Russian citizens have been arrested by Norwegian authorities for flying drones, coming after the Nordic country boosted security following suspected sabotage on the Nord Stream gas pipelines under the Baltic Sea.

Russia and NATO-member Norway share a border in the Arctic. The Nordic country is now the European Union's largest gas supplier, following a drop in Russian gas flows.



Comoros Ex-President Sambi Jailed for Life

MORONI (Dispatches) - A court in the Comoros on Monday handed down a life sentence for high treason to ex-president Ahmed Abdallah Sambi, who was convicted of selling passports to stateless people living in the Persian Gulf.

Sambi, 64, an arch rival of President Azali Assoumani, was sentenced by the State Security Court, a special judicial body whose rulings cannot be appealed.

"Sambi is sentenced to life imprisonment," court president Omar Ben Ali said, reading out the verdict, which also stripped the former leader of the right to vote and hold public office.



U.S. Weighs Sending 100-Mile Strike Weapon to Ukraine



WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - The Pentagon is considering a Boeing proposal to supply Ukraine with cheap, small precision bombs fitted onto abundantly available rockets, allowing Kyiv to strike far behind Russian lines as the West struggles to meet demand for more arms.

U.S. and allied military inventories are shrinking, and Ukraine faces an increasing need for more sophisticated weapons as the war drags on. Boeing's proposed system, dubbed Ground-Launched Small Diameter Bomb (GLSDB), is one of about a half-dozen plans for getting new munitions into production for Ukraine and America's Eastern European allies, industry sources said.

Although the United States has rebuffed requests for the 185-mile (297km) range ATACMS missile, the GLSDB's 94-mile (150km) range would allow Ukraine to hit valuable military targets that have been out of reach and help it continue pressing its counterattacks by disrupting Russian rear areas.

GLSDB could be delivered as early as spring 2023, according to a document reviewed by Reuters and three people familiar with the plan. It combines the GBU-39 Small Diameter Bomb (SDB) with the M26 rocket motor, both of which are common in U.S. inventories.

Doug Bush, the U.S. Army's chief weapons buyer, told reporters at the Pentagon last week the Army was also looking at accelerating production of 155 millimeter artillery shells - currently only manufactured at government facilities - by allowing defense contractors to build them.

The invasion of Ukraine drove up demand for American-made weapons and ammunition, while U.S. allies in Eastern Europe are "putting a lot of orders," in for a range of arms as they supply Ukraine, Bush added.

"It's about getting quantity at a cheap cost," said Tom Karako, a weapons and security expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. He said falling U.S. inventories help explain the rush to get more arms now, saying stockpiles are "getting low relative to the levels we like to keep on hand and certainly to the levels we're going to need to deter a China conflict."

Karako also noted that the U.S. exit from Afghanistan left lots of air-dropped bombs available. They cannot be easily used with Ukrainian aircraft, but "in today's context we should be looking for innovative ways to convert them to standoff capability."

Although a handful of GLSDB units have already been made, there are many logistical obstacles to formal procurement. The Boeing plan requires a price discovery waiver, exempting the contractor from an in-depth review that ensures the Pentagon is getting the best deal possible. Any arrangement would also require at least six suppliers to expedite shipments of their parts and services to produce the weapon quickly.

A Boeing spokesperson declined to comment. Pentagon spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Tim Gorman declined to comment on providing any "specific capability" to Ukraine, but said the U.S. and its allies "identify and consider the most appropriate systems" that would help Kyiv.

S. Korea's Striking Truckers Say No Deal Reached in Gov't Talks

SEOUL (Dispatches) - South Korea failed to reach agreement with a striking truckers' union in the first session of talks, the fifth day of a nationwide walkout, the union said, as supply chain glitches worsen and concrete runs out at building sites.

The government, which estimates daily losses at about 300 billion won (\$224 million) as supplies of cement and fuel for gas stations run short, raised its warning of cargo transport disruption to the highest level.

The lack of a resolution for the second major strike in less than six months by thousands of truckers demanding better pay and working conditions makes it more likely that the government will legally compel the strikers to return to work.

"The transport ministry's position today was that 'There is nothing the ministry can answer,'" the Cargo Truckers Solidarity Union (CTSU) said in a statement, adding that the next round of talks had been set for Wednesday.

The union said it had asked the government to withdraw steps toward issuing an "undemocratic and anti-constitutional" 'work start order', adding that it would take a forward-looking stance on each request to reach an agreement.



Protesters, Police Clash in India's Kerala

KOCHI (Dispatches) - More than 80 people were wounded in India as villagers protesting to halt construction of the \$900-million Vizhinjam port project by India's Adani Group clashed with police in Kerala state, the latest escalation in a months-long strike.

The protests, by a mostly Christian fishing community against the project led by billionaire Gautam Adani's \$23-billion ports business, have forced the latter to stop work on the port, seen as a potential and lucrative rival to those in Dubai, Singapore and Sri Lanka.

Building has been halted for more than three months after villagers blamed the port's development for coastal erosion and depriving them of their livelihoods. They have blocked the entrance to the site by erecting a 1,200-square-foot shelter.

Over the weekend, police arrested some protesters who blocked Adani's construction vehicles from entering the port, despite a court order for work to resume.

The arrests prompted hundreds of protesters, led by Catholic priests, to march on the police station late on Sunday night, leading to clashes with personnel and leaving police vehicles damaged, according to a police document and footage on local television.

Joseph Johnson, one of the protest leaders, said at least 46 protesters were hurt. Senior local police official M R Ajith Kumar told Reuters 36 officers were wounded in the clashes.

Another police official who did not wish to be named said security was being beefed up after the incident, with more than 600 officers deployed across Vizhinjam.

Located on the southern tip of India, the port seeks to plug into lucrative East-West trade routes, adding to the global reach of the business led by Adani, Asia's wealthiest man and the world's third-richest.

The Adani Group did not respond to a request for comment on the protests over the weekend. The company has said that the port complies with all laws and cited studies that show it is not linked to shoreline erosion. The state government has also said that any erosion was due to natural causes.

China Tightens Security After Rare Protests Against COVID Curbs

SHANGHAI (Dispatches) - Police stopped and searched people at the sites of weekend protests in Shanghai and Beijing, after crowds there and in other Chinese cities demonstrated against stringent COVID-19 measures disrupting lives three years into the pandemic.

From the streets of several Chinese cities to dozens of university campuses, protesters made a show of civil disobedience unprecedented since leader Xi Jinping assumed power a decade ago. During his tenure, Xi has overseen the quashing of dissent and expansion of a high-tech social surveillance system that has made protest more difficult, and riskier.

"What we object to is these restrictions on people's rights in the name of virus prevention, and the restrictions on individual freedom and people's livelihoods," said Jason Sun, a college student in Shanghai.

There was no sign of new protests on Monday in Beijing or Shanghai, but dozens of police were in the areas where the demonstrations took place.

Police have been asking people for their phones to check if they had virtual private networks (VPNs) and the Telegram app, which has been used by weekend protesters, residents and social media users said. VPNs are illegal for most people in China, while the Telegram app is blocked from China's internet.

Asked about widespread anger over China's zero-COVID policy, foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told reporters: "What you mentioned does not reflect what actually happened. 'We believe that with the leadership of the Communist Party of China, and cooperation and support of the Chinese people, our fight against COVID-19 will be successful.'"

The backlash against COVID curbs is a setback for China's efforts to eradicate the virus, which is infecting record numbers after swaths of the population have sacrificed income, mobility and mental health to prevent it from spreading.

The zero-COVID policy has kept China's official death toll in the thousands, against more than a million in the United States, but has come at the cost of confining many millions to long spells at home, bringing extensive disruption and damage to the world's second-largest economy.

Abandoning it would mean rolling back a policy championed by Xi. It would also risk overwhelming hospitals and lead to widespread illness and deaths in a country with hundreds of millions of elderly and low levels of immunity to COVID, experts say.

The protests roiled global markets on Monday, sending oil prices lower and hammering Chinese stocks and the yuan.



Russia-U.S. Nuclear Disarmament Talks Postponed



MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Nuclear disarmament talks between Russia and the United States set to take place this week have been postponed, according to Moscow's foreign ministry and the US Embassy.

Officials from the two countries were due to meet in the Egyptian capital of Cairo from November 29 to December 6 to discuss resuming inspections under the New START nuclear arms reduction treaty, which had been suspended in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The previously scheduled session of the Bilateral Consultative Commission under the US-Russia New START Treaty in Cairo (November 29-December 6) will not take place on those dates," the ministry said on Monday. "The event is postponed to a later date."

It gave no reason, although the US Embassy was quoted by the Kommersant newspaper as saying the decision had been Russia's.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov had played down expectations of a breakthrough, although the talks were a sign that both sides at least wanted to maintain dialogue, even though relations are at their lowest level since the Cold War.

Russia in August suspended cooperation with inspections under the treaty, blaming travel restrictions imposed by Washington and its allies over Moscow's February invasion of Ukraine, but said it was still committed to complying with the provisions of the treaty.

US Department of State Spokesperson Ned Price said earlier in November that Washington hoped the November-December talks would allow the resumption of the inspections.

"We've made clear to Russia that measures imposed as a result of Russia's unprovoked war against Ukraine don't prevent Russian inspectors from conducting New START Treaty inspections in the United States. So we hope that the meeting of the BCC will allow us to continue with those inspections," he said.

For Political Activists, Twitter Packs a Vital Punch

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - From the Arab Spring uprisings to the MeToo movement in which women spoke up about sexual assaults, Twitter has proven itself a formidable ally for political activists and opposition groups, one whose reach and impact would be difficult to replace.

Other social media platforms may have more users, but the network now owned by the billionaire Elon Musk dominates the global conversation — even as Twitter’s future is being called into doubt.

“Twitter is clearly very influential in getting the media and officials to pay attention. So it has a very special and unique place in that way,” said Mahsa Alimardani, a senior researcher at the human rights NGO Article 19.

During the anti-government protests that have rocked Iran in recent months, tweets are “helping Iranians bear witness to the pain and struggles of their fellow countrymen, helping the world bear witness to what’s happening,” she told AFP.

Especially in countries that have clamped down on independent journalism or foreign correspondents, Twitter provides a crucial lifeline to the outside world.

This week, posts from inside the Chinese iPhone factory operated by Foxconn showed workers rebelling against a total Covid lockdown, shattering the government’s attempts to portray a veneer of calm amid its draconian efforts to contain the virus.

“It’s very important to get information out to the international media but also to document human rights violations and atrocities,” said Marcus Michaelsen, a researcher specialised in digital activism under authoritarian regimes.

Twitter had some 237 million daily users at end-June, well below the nearly two billion Facebook or one billion TikTok users.

But its pithy, at-a-glance format allows the network to punch far above its weight for opposition groups, since anyone can become a “citizen journalist” who instantly shares images that government authorities don’t want to be seen.

For Nadia Idle, an Egyptian-British activist who took part in the Tahrir Square uprising in Egypt in 2011, tweets of anti-regime protests across the Middle East also encouraged people by showing that they were not alone.

“Its capacity to broadcast this event, and the amount of activists that were tweeting in English, made it a spectacle for people from the outside,” she said.

Faced with viral tweets provoking global outrage, outside governments can also feel domestic pressure to take action or at least condemn repressive governments.

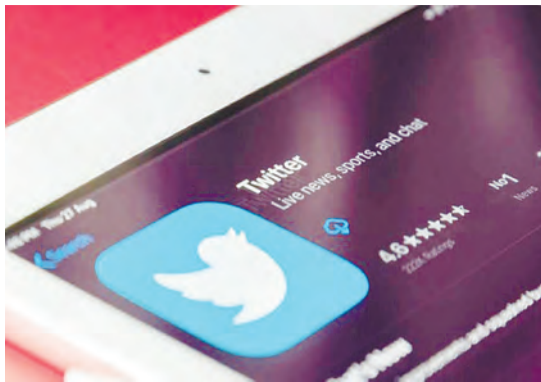
And even in democratic countries, Twitter’s function as a digital town hall can provide activists with a megaphone that previously might have been out of reach.

Over the past decade, the BlackLivesMatter hashtag has become synonymous with the movement to highlight racism and police violence against African Americans, shining a light on discriminations that often went unseen.

“They use the features of Twitter, of social media, to create a protest identity, to create a common feeling within the movement,” Michaelsen said.

“They know that they can reach journalists and policymakers more, more directly than on Instagram, for instance.”

Since the upheaval created by Musk’s takeover, Twitter has seen a wave of defections as people worry that posts will no longer be sufficiently curated to weed out disinformation and provocations.



Climate Change Could Stifle the Middle East’s Tourism Rebound

AMMAN (Dispatches) - While this is undoubtedly great news for countries where tourism accounts for the lion’s share of revenue, there is an existential threat to this tourism rebound: climate change. The countries most dependent on tourism are also the very countries most affected by the changing weather.

In Jordan, where tourism is one of the top earners of foreign currency and the second-largest private sector employer, accounting for 7.3 percent of pre-pandemic jobs, drought is exacerbating water scarcity in one of the world’s most water scarce countries.

Searing heat and a historic lack of rain are threatening tourist destinations across Jordan. The Dead Sea, for instance, is shrinking by more than a meter annually, with its shoreline receding and sinkholes growing. The Dead Sea, which is facing a reduced flow from its tributary, is rapidly dying.

Climate change is also contributing to decreased water levels in the Jordan River, where Jesus was baptized. Today, upstream water diversions have turned the river into a muddy trickle, much to the chagrin of Christian pilgrims.

It works the other way, too. In November 2018, rare torrential rains flooded Petra, Jordan’s prized tourist attraction and a UNESCO world heritage site, forcing the evacuation of nearly 4,000 tourists. While there were no reported deaths in Petra, 13 people — including two young girls and a rescue diver — died in other parts of the country. Two weeks earlier, flooding near the Dead Sea had killed 21 people, mostly children, when their bus was swept away.

In Egypt, meanwhile, rising temperatures have damaged some of the famed monuments in Luxor and changed the color of archeological stones. Tourism is the backbone of Egypt’s economy, and Egypt’s sector is the largest travel and tourism sector in Africa, according to WTTC.

Fortunately, Egypt’s coral reefs, which are popular with divers, have so far been spared the effects of climate change. But extreme weather conditions are expected to worsen as temperatures climb. Further increases will be life threatening — to people, flora, and fauna.

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) forecasts a 40 percent increase in the number of weather-related disasters globally over the next decade. At last month’s “A World for Travel” forum, held in Nimes, France, Paola Albrito, the new director of UNDRR, estimated that there will be around 560 disasters per year by 2030, and each will be “larger and more expensive” than what we experience now.

Not only will these disasters upend the lives of millions; they will also wreak havoc on the tourist infrastructure where they strike.

The country has made climate-related gains in other areas, too. It has pioneered a 10-year energy strategy for long-term, low-carbon economic growth, and in May 2022, Jordan became the first developing country to build digital tools to track emissions in energy, transport, and agriculture, according to the World Bank.

Current efforts to mitigate the impact of climate change on the region’s tourism sector are mixed. On one level, countries have committed to change, with several plans and strategies addressing green growth and social and environmental sustainability in the tourism sector.

Jordan, for example, has a five-year Green Growth National Action Plan for the tourism sector, which advocates for greener projects and greener investments. The plan is linked to the UN Sustainable Development Goals to combat climate change.



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Credit Default Ratio in Brazil Hits Highest in Almost 4 Years

BRASILIA (Dispatches) - A broad measure of Brazilian consumer and business credit default ratios rose in October to its highest level in almost four years, central bank data showed on Monday, amid high borrowing costs and aggressive monetary tightening.

The default ratio in non-earmarked loans increased to 4.2% from 4.1% in September, the highest since August 2018's 4.22%. At the same time, bank lending spreads were up to 30.3% from 28.6% the month before.

The central bank recently warned of its growing concern about the effects of lower economic activity on credit risks in the country, pointing to a "relevant" increase in risks on financing families this year.



Global Oil Market Signals Short-Term Weakness

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - The global oil market is signaling a potential shift, as traders and analysts worry about reduced crude demand and an oversupplied market in the coming months.

After months of strength, crude futures are flirting with lows not seen all year as top oil consumer China enters additional COVID-19 lockdowns while central banks hike interest rates to combat inflation.

Front-month global oil prices in the last week have traded weaker than future-dated contracts, while prices for physical crude grades throughout the world have declined, market participants said.

"Differentials are confirming what outright prices have been implying - there is a demand deficit and/or supply surplus," said Tamas Varga of oil broker PVM.

The murkier environment comes at a fraught time for the market.

On Dec. 5, a European Union ban on Russian crude imports is set to start, along with a plan by the G7 nations to force shippers to comply with a price cap on Russian oil sales.

Meanwhile, OPEC+ - the grouping of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and allied producers including Russia - is set to meet to consider output levels on Dec. 4.

The changes are evident in the market's structure - a comparison of near-term versus longer-dated contracts. In the last week, crude futures contracts have flipped in and out of contango, where the prompt price of a commodity is lower than the future price, which suggests short-term weakness.

The front-month U.S. crude futures contract traded as low as 38 cents weaker than the second-month contract, the weakest differential since November 2020, Refinitiv Eikon data showed. The front-month contract for the Brent international benchmark traded as low as 6 cents below the second-month, the weakest since August.

The inter-month spread for December and January Dubai swap flipped into contango last week for the first time in one and half years.

In China, traders are worried about oversupply if China and India continue importing large amounts of discounted Russian oil. At the same time, additional COVID restrictions are expected to weigh on demand.

Offers of Angolan and other West African crude oil to China, a main customer, are a barometer of physical crude demand from the country. China's Unipet, a major world oil trader, offered for sale several cargoes of crude shipments set to load in December, in a rare sign of slackening interest.

Meanwhile, Norway's Equinor this week offered a cargo of Angolan Pazflor crude for a discount of \$2.50 a barrel to dated Brent, down more than a dollar in a week. Spot prices for crude out of Oman - a key supplier to China - have fallen to 82 cents over Dubai crude from as high as \$15.06 a barrel in early March.

Oil storage in several regions is building, said Norbert Rucker, head of economics and next generation research at Swiss wealth manager Julius Baer.

China's Factory Activity Contraction Likely Deepened in Nov.

BEIJING (Dispatches) - China's factory activity is expected to have contracted further this month, piling pressure on the economy as COVID restrictions hit production and exports fell despite a flurry of stimulus policies, a Reuters poll showed.

The official manufacturing Purchasing Manager's Index (PMI) was forecast at 49.0 in November from 49.2 in October, below the 50-point mark which separates contraction from growth, according to the median forecast of economists polled by Reuters.

The world's second-largest economy experienced a broad slowdown in October, with exports falling, inflation slowing and a property slump deepening.

To prop up the faltering economy, the central bank last week announced it would cut banks' required reserve ratio (RRR) for the second time this year, and rolled out a rescue package outlining 16 steps to support the distressed property sector.

Authorities have also introduced a range of other measures this year in an attempt to revive growth, but the recovery has been stifled by COVID woes, the Ukraine war and a slowdown in the global economy.

Beijing this month also eased some of the nation's COVID curbs, though local authorities in some Chinese cities tightened restrictions to contain record high daily infections.

Mounting public anger over China's stringent zero-COVID policy sparked rare protests over the weekend.

"This would lead to an increased level of uncertainty over the degree of political risk in China, spilling over into damaged confidence and hence consumption in an already weakened economy," Moody's said of the protests in a note to clients.

China's economy is poised to miss the "around 5.5%" full-year government growth target with gross domestic product expanding just 3% in the first three quarters of this year. Chinese advisers say they will recommend a modest growth target for 2023 ranging from 4.5% to 5.5% to an annual policymakers' meeting in December.

The official manufacturing PMI, which largely focuses on big and state-owned firms, and its survey for the services sector, will be released on Wednesday.

The private sector Caixin manufacturing PMI, which centres more on small firms and coastal regions, will be published on Thursday. Analysts expect a headline reading of 48.9 from 49.2 in October.



Indian Banks' Loan Growth to Accelerate Despite Higher Interest Rates

BENGALURU (Dispatches) - Loan growth at Indian banks will accelerate to 13% in this fiscal year despite the RBI raising interest rates, as economic activity picks up after a pandemic led lull, Fitch Ratings said on Monday.

Lending growth for the previous fiscal year stood at 11.5%.

The Reserve Bank of India has raised interest rates by a total 190 basis points since May to fight inflation, which has only recently shown some signs of easing.

India's annual retail inflation eased to a three-month low of 6.77% in October, helped by a slower rise in food prices and a higher base effect.

While full-year growth will show a modest slowdown from the 17% pace seen in the first half, credit demand is expected to stay robust into the next financial year if economic expansion continued, Fitch added.

Demand for credit has rebounded after a pandemic lull, with consumers and businesses stepping up spending as the economy roared back to life. The country's economy likely returned to a more normal 6.2% annual growth rate in July-September after a double-digit expansion in the previous quarter, a Reuters poll showed.

Strong loan growth will, however, put pressure on core equity tier 1 ratios if credit growth exceed expectations, limiting buffers to absorb potential future losses, the ratings agency said.

Deposit growth is seen at 11% this year and the next, slower than loan growth. Increased deposit rates may put some pressure on margins, but lower credit costs should offset pressure on profitability, Fitch said, adding that near-term asset quality risks appeared contained.

Bangladesh Poised to Become Trillion-Dollar Economy by 2040

DHAKA (Dispatches) - Bangladesh is on course to emerge as a \$1.0 trillion economy by 2040 at an average growth rate of 5.0 per cent, powered by a surge in middle and affluent consumers, an American consulting firm said in a study.

The domestic consumer market is set to become the ninth-largest consumer market in the world through a rapidly expanding middle and affluent class which is projected to grow from 19 million in 2020 to 34 million by 2025, according to the study released by

Boston Consulting Group (BCG) on Friday.

With an average annual economic growth of 6.4 per cent between 2016 and 2021, Bangladesh, a nation of 170 million people, has outpaced major Asian peers such as India, Indonesia, Vietnam, the Philippines and Thailand, reports bdnews24.com.

Rapidly growing consumer demand and greater spending in Bangladesh come from the middle and affluent classes. Bangladesh's \$416 billion economy is heavily reliant on household consumption - 69 per cent of the 2021 gross domestic product. "Consumer optimism in Bangladesh is high. This vital optimism kicked off the virtuous cycle of high growth which Bangladesh has experienced over the last decade," BCG said.

The study by BCG mirrors a recent report by HSBC that projected Bangladesh to be the fastest-growing consumer market globally over the next decade. It is expected to emerge as the ninth-largest consumer market globally by 2030, overtaking established markets such as the UK and Germany and surpassing high-growth peers Vietnam and Thailand.

But no story is without ups and downs. The current economic climate has created some uncertainties, with liquidity challenges, foreign exchange risks and inflationary pressures in the short term, but the measures the country is taking should allow Bangladesh to remain on its course towards a trillion-dollar economy, according to BCG.

"Recent macro-economic challenges resulting from the global economic slowdown have seen optimism levels dip, but 57 per cent of respondents continue to believe the next generation would have better lives than themselves, especially as the country transitions to a skill-based economy," it said. Bangladesh's "remarkable growth" saw the nation progress from low-income to a lower-middle-income country status in 2015 as classified by the World Bank.

Despite graduating five years later to LMIC status versus India, the GDP per capita is already higher than its regional peer, and Bangladesh aims to become an upper-middle-income country by 2031.

Russia Oil Turmoil Seen Driving Tanker Market Higher

LONDON (Dispatches) - Tough new sanctions on Russian oil shipments taking effect from December are likely to boost already high tanker rates as buyers race to replace cargoes and are forced to use longer routes, a leading ship manager said.

In the latest action against Russia in response to its invasion of Ukraine that began in February, the European Union will ban Russian crude imports from Dec 5, and Russian oil products from Feb 5.

Designed to deprive Moscow of revenues that could finance its action in Ukraine, the measures will force one of the world's top oil producers and exporters to seek alternative buyers further afield.

Maersk Tankers Chief Executive Christian M. Ingerslev told Reuters he expected demand to be healthy as Russian oil continues to flow, but to different markets.

"With new sanctions coming into place, we expect that Russian oil will continue to be moved. But now the importing countries will not have the short haul distance, it will be long haul," he said.

"Europe, which previously imported 1 million barrels a day, will need to source the volume for instance from the Middle East, which in turn will lead to more demand."

Freight rates have hit record highs in recent weeks and analysts expect them to stay supported for both crude and oil products tankers, potentially driving inflation that has hit multi-decade highs.

Ingerslev said the conditions had prompted ship owners from other segments such as dry bulk to invest in tanker assets.

"The difference between spot and time charter markets is quite big and it's attractive to be in the spot market," he said.

"Longer distances create more uncertainty operationally and customers need to start planning a lot longer," he said.

A G7 plan, intended as an add-on to the EU embargo, will allow shipping services providers, such as insurers, to help enable Russian oil to be exported, but only at enforced low prices. This is also set to take effect on Dec. 5.

"The price cap is on paper clear, but in practical terms we need to see how it will take shape," Ingerslev said.

"How does it work with P&I clubs (ship insurers), banks having to handle the transactions? The owners are responsible for what is transported under the price cap, and it is not easy."

Last week, EU governments remained split where the price cap's level should be and it was unclear at a meeting on Friday how near they were to an agreement.

Service company Maersk Tankers has approximately 170 vessels under management. Sister company Maersk Product Tankers owns 52 vessels transporting energy products globally.



Turkey's Economy Grew 4% in Q3



ISTANBUL (Dispatches) - Turkey's economy is expected to have expanded 4% in the third quarter and will grow 5% overall in 2022, a Reuters poll showed on Monday, after the central bank embarked on an easing cycle to counter an economic slowdown despite soaring inflation.

Turkey's economy bounced back strongly from the COVID-19 pandemic to expand 11.4% in 2021. It grew 7.5% in the first quarter and 7.6% in the second, extending its hot streak on strong domestic demand and exports.

But the economy was set to cool in the rest of the year as both domestic and foreign demand eased, partly due to a slowdown in the main trading partners hurting exports.

Turkey's gross domestic product (GDP) growth was expected to stand at 4% year-on-year in the third quarter, according to the median estimate of 13 economists participating in the Reuters poll. Forecasts ranged between 3.0% and 4.8%.

Given the expected slowdown, the median estimate of 13 economists for GDP growth in 2022 stood at 5%, in a range of 4.50% and 5.60%.

President Tayyip Erdogan's economic programme over the last 14 months prioritised growth and exports, and aimed to tackle inflation by shoring up chronic current account deficits rather than by raising rates.

An easing cycle last year led the lira to end the year down 44% against the dollar and it shed another 29% this year, sending inflation to a 24-year high of more than 85% in October.

In August the central bank began cutting rates again, by another 500 basis points to 9%. It cited signs of an economic slowdown for its easing.

Ankara expects 5% growth this year and in 2023. The Turkish Statistical Institute will announce Q3 GDP growth data at 0700 GMT on Nov. 30.

Iranian, Iraqi Border Guards Sign MoU on Border Issues

TEHRAN (MNA) – On the sidelines of the meeting of the border guard commanders of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq, a borders-related MoU was signed between the two sides.

Iranian border police commander Brigadier General Ahmad Ali Goudarzi stressed the importance of holding interactions with the border guards of neighboring countries for Iran.

The MoU includes border-related subjects such as border terminals, transferring of Arbaeen pilgrims, stable security of common borders, exchange of information, and joint border patrols. The border guards of the 2 countries of Islamic Iran and Iraq are determined to confront any insecurity, drug trafficking, armed criminals and terrorist groups at the common borders, Brigadier General Ahmad Ali Goudarzi added.



Qatar's \$220b Tourism Boost, Will It Pay Off?

DOHA (Dispatches) - Qatar is rolling out the red carpet for an expected total in excess of one million visitors for the FIFA World Cup and is aiming to attract up to six million a year by 2030.

Doha is a city with one of the fastest-growing hotel and hospitality markets in the world. The \$220 billion spent on infrastructure since the successful World Cup bid of 2010 has helped boost the industry. Hotels have also been helped by the country's geographic location.

According to the latest government figures, 80% of the world's population is within a six-hour flight from Qatar. Over 150 new hotels have been built for the FIFA World Cup, and all of these expect to welcome tourists for years to come.

One of those new hotels is Pullman Doha West Bay, which is owned by the French multinational group Accor, it opened in August, with 460 rooms and suites ready to welcome guests. The hospitality industry has been seeing a strong rebound of demand back to pre-pandemic levels, and Accor is keen to capitalise on that.

The group's CEO, Sébastien Bazin, explained how the company plans to do that to Euronews. "Accor is opening one hotel per day on this planet, and it will continue to do so. So expand and control density and market share. Accor is the largest hotel company outside America and China, and I want Accor to remain number one outside China and America. So it's between being disciplined, caretaking for the people working for Accor, making sure you have the right brands, and making sure you're going to be preparing yourself for maybe some difficult times."

Another hotel in Qatar that's hosting some very important guests this month is the Ritz Carlton Doha. The luxury hotel and its 374 rooms and suites have been welcoming people in the country for 20 years.

Euronews was given special access to see what it's like inside an award-winning, luxurious hotel and find out what it takes to make VIPs feel at home.

The Ritz Carlton Doha knows how to make strong and lasting first impressions. A team of dedicated hoteliers and service staff runs the hotel like a well-oiled machine, but there's nothing robotic about its hospitality.

The staff here is led by the General Manager Carlo Javakhia, who says the secret to award-winning hospitality is to always go that extra mile.

"It's all about the human touch. It's all about the personalities, creating the vibe, and being welcoming and this should be something natural. With our brand, it's not all about transactions. We look into creating real relationships, where the guest can feel that they have someone, from the moment they check in until the moment they check out, there is always someone they can raise their concerns with, they can ask for assistance, and they feel comfortable."

The COVID-19 pandemic shed more than \$130 billion in revenues from the global hospitality sector. But since then, demand at the Ritz has been more robust than ever and looking beyond the FIFA World Cup, Carlo and his team are anticipating even busier days ahead.

We are very optimistic about all the upcoming events that we will be hosting as a country, and definitely our hotel is one of the main, preferred hotels.



So, after a tricky time right across the sector - whether it's a tropical-themed swimming pool, a relaxing spa, or just a warm welcome - hotel bosses all over the world know that the business and the art of making people happy has never been more important.

When Qatar won the World Cup bid in 2010, most of the city of Lusail wasn't built. Now, it's home to luxury hotels, a million square meter shopping mall, the Formula One race track, and the stadium that will host the World Cup final.

Euronews spoke to Dr. Jeremias Kettner, senior advisor at InStrat, a Qatar-based, independent research and advisory platform, and asked him about the tourism sector and what it will look like in years to come.

"We should not forget that the World Cup is only one point in the long history of Qatar as a hub for sports, mega-events, and all kinds of cultural activities, all of which makes it an attractive tourist destination today."

"The development of Qatar follows its strategy to position itself as a cultural hub and tourist destination. According to the Economic Intelligence Unit, Qatar's economy will grow by 5.5% in 2022. That's remarkable, with dwindling numbers elsewhere in the world. A German newspaper just recently wrote on the occasion of the visit of our Chancellor Scholz to Doha - "Whoever ignores Qatar will lose." And I think they might be right with that analysis." Concludes Dr. Kettner.

Qatar's tourism sector continues to witness a strong recovery with more than 729,000 international visitors in the first half of 2022, marking a 19% increase compared to the full year of 2021. And their aim is to raise tourism to 12% of GDP by 2030.

So, after tough times, optimism is back in the hotel sector once again. Growth is happening. Companies are busy. Global economic uncertainty does still lie ahead, but this is a resilient sector, staffed with people who are committed to solving problems with energy, innovation, and ambition.

Russian Tourists Lead Sri Lanka Winter Tourism Arrivals

ECONOMYNEXT (Dispatches) - Russian travelers are leading Sri Lanka's tourist arrivals in the 2022 winter season as the Indian Ocean island undergoing the worst currency crisis in the history of its soft-pegged central bank.

From November 1-24, Sri Lanka has welcomed 45,560 tourists led by 11,041 Russian holiday makers, followed by 8,075 Indians and 3,569 British.

"The bulk is coming from Russia and its going to down south - Ahangama, Weligama, up to Matara, Tangalle, Unawatuna. That area is packed," Priyantha Fernando, Chairman of Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority said.

"It's the middle market family crowd and youngsters we are getting - not backpackers or high end but definitely bookings from Russia are very good."

Sri Lanka was hopeful to attract travelers from the European and the American market for the winter season especially long-haul holiday-makers.

But European markets are going through an energy crisis and high inflation, after the Federal Reserve and European Central Bank printed money.

"Europeans have their own issues right now," Fernando said. "Also we had an issue in the German market with a recent travel warning which being sorted at the moment."

December and January looks better, he said.

"The numbers are still low as Sri Lanka's key winter-season European market is going through it's own financial crisis," M Shantikumar, President of Sri Lanka's Hoteliers Association said.

Officials are hopeful Sri Lanka will end the month around 55,000 tourists, while December might see a 10-20 increase in arrivals.

Shantikumar says the country needs to focus on direct consumer marketing as most are still not aware that the issues in island have been sorted.

Sri Lanka has received 613,818 tourist so far this year. Sri Lanka was targeting 800,000 tourists for the full year.

Indians remain the top holiday makers in Sri Lanka with a total of 103,562 visiting the island up to November 24.

"With the Winter season currently on, we have our regular winter scheduled flights such as Aeroflot, Azur Air, Edelweiss, Swiss Air, Jazeera, Air France adding to the regular schedules," Shehan Sumanasekera, Director of All Airport, Sri Lanka Airport and Aviation Services said.

"Which means the tourist arrivals during the month from November to April will see a rapid increase.

Taliban's Treatment of Women May Be Crime Against Humanity

GENEVA (Dispatches) - The Taliban's treatment of Afghan women and girls, including their exclusion from parks and gyms as well as schools and universities, may amount to a crime against humanity, a group of UN experts said.

The assessment by the UN Special Rapporteur on Afghanistan Richard Bennett and nine other UN experts says the treatment of women and girls may amount to "gender persecution" under the Rome Statute to which Afghanistan is a party.

Responding to the assessment, Taliban Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesperson Abdul Qahar Balkhi said: "The current collective punishment of innocent Afghans by the UN sanctions regime all in the name of women rights and equality amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity."

The UN experts said in a statement that women's confinement to their homes was "tantamount to imprisonment", adding that it was likely to lead to increased levels of domestic violence and mental health problems. The experts cited the arrest this month of female activist Zarifa Yaqobi and four male colleagues.

They remain in detention, the experts said.

The Taliban took over from a Western-backed government in August 2021. They say they respect women's rights in accordance with their interpretation of Islamic law.

Western governments have said the Taliban needs to reverse its course on women's rights, including their U-turn on signals they would open girls' high schools, for any path towards formal recognition of the Taliban government.

Separately, a spokesperson for the UN human rights office called for the Taliban authorities to immediately halt the use of public floggings in Afghanistan.

Ravina Shamdasani said the office had documented numerous such incidents this month, including a woman and a man lashed 39 times each for spending time alone together outside of marriage.

Balkhi said the Taliban administration considered the statement by the United Nations and others by Western officials were "an insult towards Islam and violation of international principals."

Russian Gas...

FROM PAGE 1

Under a proposed swap scheme, Iran will import gas from Russia either through Turkmenistan or Azerbaijan to consume the supplies in its northern regions while committing to deliver the same amount of gas on the border with Pakistan.

The old gas contract between Iran and Pakistan is a "take or pay" deal under which Islamabad is supposed to take the gas delivered on the border or pay its price.

That is why statements by Pakistani officials suggesting the country is not interested in receiving gas from Iran could not be substantive.

In fact, Pakistan will be able to address its acute energy crisis through gas supplied by Russia via Iran.

The revival of the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline deal can also benefit India, a country that has refused to implement sanctions imposed by the US and its allies on Russia because of the war in Ukraine.

In fact, India and China have been receiving increased supplies of crude oil from Russia after Western sanctions were imposed on Moscow.

Iran has another option to buy Russian gas for domestic consumption in its north without committing to any swap delivery of the same amount to other countries.

That will enable Iran to meet growing domestic demand for natural gas and increase its gas supplies for the purpose of exports to other countries.

Experts believe both scenarios could benefit Iran although some prefer the swap model because it will lead to more Russian contribution to the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project.

Iran Removes Import...

FROM PAGE 1

In late October, ICCIMA and the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FPCCI) signed three memorandums of understanding (MOU) with the aim of expanding economic cooperation between the private sectors of the two countries.

The MOUs were signed during another visit of an Iranian private sector delegation headed by ICCIMA Head Gholam-Hossein Shafei to the Pakistani cities of Karachi and Lahore.

Based on the signed memorandums, the two sides agreed to strengthen comprehensive cooperation between the private sectors of the two countries, to establish a joint trade council of Iran and Pakistan, and to determine a mechanism to resolve trade disputes.

During their visit to Pakistan, the Iranian delegates also attended a meeting with officials from the State Bank of Pakistan (the country's central bank) in which the two sides discussed details of a barter trade mechanism between the two countries. After the trip of the Iranian trade delegation to Pakistan, Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) and Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) also signed an MOU to pursue and develop free trade with Pakistan.

Trigger a War...

FROM PAGE 1

GLSDB is made jointly by SAAB AB (SAABb.ST) and Boeing Co (BA.N) and has been in development since 2019.

SAAB chief executive Micael Johansson said of the GLSDB in October, "We are imminently shortly expecting contracts on that."

Pentagon spokesman Tim Gorman declined to comment on providing any "specific capability" to Ukraine, but said the US and its allies "identify and consider the most appropriate systems" that would help Kiev.

A Boeing proposal to US European Command (EUCOM), which is overseeing weapons headed to Ukraine - the main components of the GLSDB would come from current US stores, according to the document.

Ever since the beginning of the war, Kyiv's allies, led by the United States and Britain, have been pumping Ukraine full of advanced weapons, a step that Russia says would only prolong the hostilities.

Last Tuesday, a bipartisan group of US senators asked President Joe Biden to consider giving Ukraine advanced drones.

In a letter to Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, the signatories urged the secretary to supply Ukraine with MQ-1C, also known as Gray Eagle, drones, according to the Wall Street Journal.

Washington has so far committed nearly \$20 billion in military assistance to Kiev since January 2021, including rocket and air defense systems.

A report said earlier this month that the U.S. managed to conduct in-person inspections for only about 10 percent of the weapons it provided for Ukraine, weapons that require special oversight amid the conflict in the country, a report says.

Of course other Western countries are also willing to sell weapons under the pretext of helping Ukraine in war against Russia but we know that those arms manufacturers just think of selling their products and not helping the Ukrainians, and if there is no war then there will be no need to any weapon.

So one should not expect the Ukraine-Russia war to come to its end very soon because it has turned into a good market for Western countries to sell their products or test their weapons during this war and make money as most of the Western countries are currently struggling with bad economic conditions and inflation.

Unfortunately Ukraine has turned into a tool for the U.S. and its allies for blackmailing and confrontation with Russia, and the more this war prolongs, the more Ukraine will suffer and Ukrainians are better to end war with Russians to avoid more losses otherwise in the post-war era this country will face many consequences of the current war and the real winner will only be the arms manufacturers which are mainly the Westerners.

Tehran Calls for...

FROM PAGE 1

"The Zionist regime of Israel is in possession of various types of weapons of mass destruction and is the most serious threat to peace and security in the region and the world. It is the cause of the failure of [establishment of a] Middle East region free of weapons of mass destruction," the Iranian diplomat pointed out.

He called on the member states of the conference to take action to realize the universality of the convention and establish a world free of chemical weapons.

On Monday, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani showed up at a presser with a chemical mask in the presser, which alluded to Germany's support for ex-Iraqi dictator Saddam during the 1980-1988 imposed war on Iran and supply of chemical warfare by Berlin to the deposed Ba'ath regime.

The riots, meanwhile, have claimed the lives of dozens of people and security forces, while also allowing terrorist attacks across the country. In the last two months, the terrorists have set fire to public property and tortured several Basij members and security forces to death.



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Busquets Departure Accepted

MADRID (Dispatches) - Barcelona management have accepted that Sergi Busquets will leave at the end of the season. Barca had hoped to persuade the midfielder to commit to another season. But AS says there's now an acceptance that Busquets will leave in June, with the USA the likely destination. While there's disappointment for coach Xavi and his staff, there's a relief at board level as clearing Busquets' wages off the books will be welcome. Inter Miami is an early contender for the veteran's signature.

Liverpool Scouting Ajax Attacker Kudus at World Cup

LONDON (Dispatches) - Liverpool are watching Ajax midfielder Mohammed Kudus at the World Cup. Liverpool are scouting the Ghana international at the World Cup in Qatar ahead of making a potential move for him in January. Sports World Ghana reports the Reds had scouts at the Black Stars' opening 3-2 defeat to Portugal, in which Kudus, who has previously admitted he 'loves the game' of Thiago Alcantara, marked his debut at the tournament with an assist.

8 IRAN NEWS

SPORTS

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 30, 2022

Jacobs Carries Raiders To OT Victory vs. Seahawks

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Josh Jacobs scored on an 86-yard run with 4:20 left in overtime to give the Las Vegas Raiders a 40-34 victory against the host Seattle Seahawks. Jacobs carried 33 times for 229 yards and two touchdowns for the Raiders (4-7), who won in OT for the second consecutive week. Derek Carr overcame two first-quarter interceptions to complete 25 of 36 passes for 295 yards and three touchdowns. Carr threw a 5-yard scoring strike to Foster Moreau with 1:54 remaining in regulation to tie the score. The Seahawks (6-5) lost their second in a row and fell out of a first-place tie in the NFC West. Geno Smith was 27-of-37 passing for 328 yards and two TDs. Rookie Kenneth Walker III rushed for two scores. The Raiders got the ball first in overtime and moved to Seattle's 37-yard line before the drive stalled. Daniel Carlson's 56-yard field-goal attempt was wide right. The Seahawks went three-and-out and had to punt to Las Vegas' 14-yard line. On the next play, Jacobs went up the middle and was hardly touched on his way to the end zone.

Jaguars 28, Ravens 27

Trevor Lawrence threw three touchdown passes and Jacksonville gambled on a successful two-point conversion with 14 seconds remaining to beat visiting Baltimore. Lawrence completed 29 of 37 passes for 321 yards for Jacksonville (4-7). With just over two minutes to play, Lawrence started the Jaguars on their eventual game-winning drive. The drive was capped off by Lawrence connecting with Marvin Jones Jr. for a 10-yard touchdown. On the two-point conversion, Lawrence found Zay Jones on a pass to the left side of the end zone.

Eagles 40, Packers 33

Jalen Hurts ran for a career-high 157 yards and threw two touchdown passes as Philadelphia defeated visiting Green Bay.

Hurts completed 16 of 28 passes for 153 yards. He rushed 17 times and broke the team record for rushing yards by a quarterback set by Michael Vick, who had 130 against the New York Giants in 2010. Philadelphia (10-1) rushed for a whopping 363 of its 500 total yards and matched its best start since the 2017 team that won Super Bowl LII. Miles Sanders ran for 143 yards and two touchdowns.



Aaron Rodgers passed for 140 yards with two touchdowns and two interceptions before leaving the game with an oblique injury late in the third quarter. Jordan Love took over for Green Bay (4-8) in the fourth quarter, trailing 37-23 after Jake Elliott's 31-yard field goal. Love's third pass was a 63-yard TD to Christian Watson -- the rookie receiver's sixth score in his last three games -- to make it 37-30 with 9:00 left.

Panthers 23, Broncos 10

Carolina's Sam Darnold threw a touchdown pass and scored on a strange running play while the defense dominated in a victory against visiting Denver. Darnold (11 of 19, 164 yards), who had been injured in the preseason and then was behind Baker Mayfield and PJ Walker in the pecking order, made good on his first chance in a role that he held last year. D'Onta Foreman rushed for 113 yards on 24 carries and Eddy Pineiro kicked three field goals for the Panthers (4-8).

Jets 31, Bears 10

Mike White threw for 315 yards and three touchdowns to lead New York to a victory over Chicago in East Rutherford, N.J. White completed 22 of 28 passes, including a 22-yard scoring strike to Elijah Moore and touchdown passes of 8 and 54 yards to Garrett Wilson, who finished with five receptions for 95 yards. The Jets (7-4) improved to 3-3 at home while Chicago (3-9) lost its fifth straight game and for the eighth time in its past nine contests.



Rashford Hails Unbelievable Ronaldo Experience

DOHA (Dispatches) -England forward Marcus Rashford said it had been an "unbelievable experience" playing alongside Cristiano Ronaldo at Manchester United and described him as one of his idols. Ronaldo left United last week when the club said they had reached a mutual agreement with the player to terminate his contract with immediate effect. The separation came after the five-time Ballon d'Or winner had heavily criticized United manager Erik ten Hag in a TV interview and accused the club of "betraying" him. Rashford played with Ronaldo during the 37-year-old's second stint at United, having signed for the club's academy during the Portuguese's first spell. "Listen, it's been an unbelievable experience to play with him," Rashford said, speaking in a press conference at England's World Cup base in Doha. "He's obviously one of my idols and someone I've always looked up to," he said. "So to have the opportunity to play with him is unbelievable and I'll take that with me and it's something that I can keep with me forever. "So I wish him all the best. We obviously want to thank him for the things that he's done for Manchester United and wish him all the best in the rest of his career." Ronaldo has yet to announce his next club.

Paris 2024 to Launch Streamlined Public Ticketing

PARIS (Dispatches) - The organizers of the Paris 2024 Olympics said they would launch a streamlined public ticketing operation ahead of the event, with the first draw for a total of 10 million tickets for sale starting on December 1. Anyone in the world can enter the draw which ends on January 31, 2023, and 3 million tickets in packages will effectively be available in February. Tickets will be obtainable from a single platform and will not be available through ticket resellers. In past Olympics, early morning sessions for some less popular sports struggled to fill the stands leaving many empty seats and the broadcasters unhappy with the TV images. Half of the tickets will cost €50 or less, while prices for a three-session package start at €72. The French State has already booked 400,000 of the remaining tickets, which also go to Olympic stakeholders, the official hospitality provider and sponsors, organizers said. "The fact that you can make your own package is designed to avoid no-shows, which happens after people buy a package for a specific session and are handed with it two sessions they are not interested in," Damien Rajot, head of ticketing, said. Those packages will represent about 80 per cent of the tickets sold to the public, with the other 20 per cent being sold in May in form of single tickets. "These tickets will be for the opening and closing ceremonies and the premium sessions, such as the 100 meters finals in athletics and swimming, or the basketball final, for example," Michael Aloisio, chief of staff of Paris 2024 boss Tony Estanguet, said.

Benitez Ready for Management Return

LONDON (Dispatches) - Former Liverpool and Everton boss Rafa Benitez feels ready to return to management. Benitez has been out of work since he was sacked by Everton in January. The Spaniard spent six months in charge at Goodison Park, before he was shown the exit door and was replaced by Frank Lampard. "Yes, I'd like to work in a team that can compete for something," Benitez is quoted telling DAZN Italy.



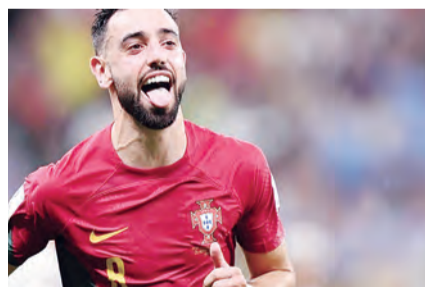
Spain Will Play to Win Against Japan

DOHA (Dispatches) - Spain will not take Japan lightly and will play to win despite leading World Cup Group E following their 1-1 draw against Germany on Sunday, coach Luis Enrique said. "There was a strange feeling in the changing room because we had the opportunity to beat Germany and we let it slip through our hands and that was a shame," Luis Enrique told a news conference. "But we have to think that we are at the top of the so-called Group of Death and we have to stay positive. "A draw against Japan on Thursday would probably send us through to knock-outs but we will not speculate. We will use our full strength and go for the win to secure the top in the group standings."

Spain were arguably the better side during most of the match on Sunday and took a 67th minute lead. But the Germans snatched an 83rd minute equaliser through Niclas Füllkrug to deny Luis Enrique's team a second straight win after their 7-0 demolition of Costa Rica. They top the Group E standings with four points and now need only a draw in their final game against Japan to progress. A win would send them through to the knockout round in first place. Germany, who lost 2-1 in their opener against Japan, are bottom of the table on one point. They need to win against Costa Rica on Thursday and their hopes then depend on Japan losing. If Japan draw it would come down to goal difference or goals scored by Germany and Japan. "Germany should not think about our game, they should focus on Costa Rica first because we are in the World Cup and every rival has their own quality," Luis Enrique said. "We lacked finesse and freshness throughout the match against Germany, lacked a little peace of mind."

Fernandes Double Sends Portugal Into Knock-Out Stage

DOHA (Dispatches) - Bruno Fernandes scored twice to give Portugal a 2-0 victory over Uruguay on Monday and send them into the knock-out stages of the World Cup alongside France and Brazil. The Manchester United midfielder scored a cross-cum-shot nine minutes into the second half and then added an injury-time penalty following a handball by Jose Maria Gimenez. The match at Doha's spectacular 89,000-capacity Lusail Stadium also featured the first pitch invader of the Qatar tournament -- the man carried messages of support for Ukraine and Iranian women and had a rainbow flag. With Portugal already through, Uruguay must now beat Ghana in their final Group H match to stand any chance of also progressing. Both sides made three changes from their opening matches, with Portugal bringing in veteran Pepe for the injured Danilo Pereira, who suffered cracked ribs in training. Pepe became the third-oldest outfield player in World Cup history. Portugal dominated the first half, hogging the ball and creating several chances, but without ever testing Uruguay goalkeeper Sergio Rochet. Uruguay's forwards, Edinson Cavani and Darwin Nunez were starved of the ball but the South Americans still had the best opportunity of the first period. Rodrigo Bentancur picked the ball up in his own half and surged forwards, slipping between two defenders to find himself one-on-one with goalkeeper Diogo Costa, who spread himself well to save the midfielder's shot. Fernandes double sends Portugal into World Cup knock-outs



Warriors Power Past Timberwolves in Convincing Road Win

LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - Stephen Curry scored 25 points and the Golden State Warriors parlayed a hot start into a comfortable 137-114 NBA win over the Minnesota Timberwolves. Curry added 11 rebounds and eight assists while Draymond Green posted his first double-double of the season with 19 points and 11 assists as the reigning NBA champions put together three straight victories for the first time this season. It was just their second away victory of the campaign and moved them to 11-10, the first time in a month they have been above .500. The Warriors, seemingly determined to turn around their dismal fortunes on the road, exploded out of the gate, engineering a 17-0 scoring run on the way to 47 first-quarter points and a 20-point lead after the first period. They were up by 20 going into the fourth although the Timberwolves, led by 26 points from Anthony Edwards with 21 from Karl-Anthony Towns, cut that by half with 5:31 remaining. Golden State responded, with Curry draining a three-pointer before Klay Thompson delivered a trey, a steal and another three-pointer to push the lead back to 19. Six Warriors players finished in double figures, Thompson posting 21 and Jordan Poole adding 24 off the bench. "I think what really propelled us that first half, especially defensively, is not fouling," Thompson said. "As simple as it sounds, it has us playing at such a higher level. "Our defense obviously fuels our offense, getting out in transition, hitting the open man. And it's crazy how when we play simple basketball, it's a thing of beauty."

