

**French Satellite Operator Eutelsat Has Notified Press TV of a Plan to Take the English-Language News Network Off Air, Weeks After the European Union Imposed Sanctions On the Tehran-Based Broadcaster**

# IRAN NEWS

**Iran's Senior Negotiator in Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Talks With The Eurasian Economic Union Says the FTA Deal Is Expected to Be Signed in Tehran by the Two Sides in Upcoming Days Before December 21**

VOL. XXVIII, No. 7656 TEHRAN Price 50,000 Rials

www.irannewsdaily.com

THURSDAY DECEMBER 8, 2022 - AZAR 17, 1401

2

DOMESTIC

**Iran Main Partner of India In North-South Corridor**



> SEE PAGE 2

3

DOMESTIC

**Iran to Cooperate With 6 Asian, European Companies in Exploration**



> SEE PAGE 3

4

INTERNATIONAL

**Ukraine Appears to Expose Russian Air Defense With Long-Range Strikes**



> SEE PAGE 4

8

SPORTS

**Rockets Outlast Sixers In Double OT**



> SEE PAGE 8

## Leader Calls for Revolutionary Reconstruction of Cultural Structure

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei said on Tuesday that the Islamic Revolution changed the mindset of "We can't" to "We can".

Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei on Tuesday received the members of the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution.

Constant vigilance, accurate recognition of cultural weaknesses, and efforts to achieve wise solutions to eliminate weaknesses and promote correct cultural interpretations are among the basic requirements of cultural engineering in the country, he underlined.

Terming the country's cultural guidance as the main role of the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ayatollah Khamenei pointed out the necessity of revolutionary reconstruction of the cultural structure of the country.

The Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution should offer wise solutions for spreading correct and decisive interpretations by observing and understanding the weaknesses and wrong cultural interpretations in various fields, he further noted.

See Page 7

## President Blasts U.S. for Seditious Plots Against Iran



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - President Ebrahim Raisi has lambasted the United States for its hostile and seditious plots against the Islamic Republic, stating that Washington does not want the country to be strong and prosperous, and indeed spares no effort to wreak havoc and destruction on it.

Raisi made the remarks at Tehran University on Wednesday on the occasion of the National Day of University Student, which falls on December 7 every year and marks the anniversary of the murder of three students of the same university on December 7, 1953 by Iranian police forces in the deposed and U.S.-backed Pahlavi era.

"Americans are rummaging around for destruction. They want Iran to be in ruins rather than to be strong and robust. They are seeking to have Iran destroyed just like Syria and Afghanistan. They have, however, made miscalculations as erudite and well-informed Iranian men and women will not allow them to implement such a scheme," the Iranian president pointed out.

He added, "They (Americans) wanted to block our country's progress; but we did not let them do so. They proclaimed we would not be able to trade with our neighbors unless we acceded to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). This is while we have expanded our interactions with regional countries and have even activated regional commercial infrastructure, such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)."

Raisi went on to highlight that almost 35,000 people have been maimed during the 20-year-long US war in Afghanistan, expressing surprise that US officials, irrespective of such a high figure, are still making bogus allegations about attempts to offer world nations hope and joy.

The Iranian president also described the US government as the most authoritarian and dictatorial administration of all, hailing the National Day of University Student as a manifestation of the fight against the world's super dictator, the United States.

He strongly denounced the U.S. over creation of the Daesh Takfiri terrorist group, and supply of weapons to the terrorists to murder 15 people — including a child and his parents — and injure 26 others in an attack on the revered Shah Cheragh holy shrine in the southern Iranian city of Shiraz on October 26.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Raisi rejected claims that the riots in Iran are a product of the country's economic situation, adding that people refused to support the rioters after they became aware of the real intentions behind the unrest.

He said the incumbent Iranian administration will continue to listen to the grievances of protesters, including students, adding that he has been engaged in constant dialogue with students and the elites of the country since taking office in August 2021.

## Tehran Condemns Use of Unilateral Sanctions

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran has once again condemned unilateral sanctions by some countries and their use as political leverage in their bilateral relations.

Such sanctions are "a major obstacle to international humanitarian efforts", Zahra Ershadi, Iran's deputy ambassador to the United Nations, said at a General Assembly meeting on humanitarian aid on Tuesday.

Ershadi went on to say that those sanctions are also "a breeding ground for all kinds of human crises across the globe."

She touched upon sanctions on Iran, saying the country "has suffered tremendously from the additional weight of unlawful and illegal unilateral sanctions."

Back in May 2018, the US began to unilaterally impose sanctions against Iran after the former left the Iran nuclear agreement, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

The U.S. administration, under former president Donald Trump, launched what it called a maximum pressure campaign against Iran at the time, targeting the Iranian nation with the "toughest ever" sanctions.

See Page 7

## ViewPoint

By: Hamid Reza Naghashian

## New Acid Test for ICC

International bodies in recent decades have taken double standard approaches regarding different issues and they have tried to please the big powers or those who have great influence on them or finance them, and for this reason people worldwide especially the oppressed ones have lost their trust to those bodies.

For years the Zionist regime has continued its atrocities and crimes against the Palestinian people or anybody who has opposed this killing regime, and unfortunately the international bodies have taken passive or indifferent stands against this fake regime, and the Zionists have been emboldened to go on killing spree in the Occupied Lands.

Now it is reported that Palestinian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Riyad al-Maliki has handed over to the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) a file on the Israeli crimes committed against Palestinian people.

During a meeting in The Hague with Karim Khan, Maliki stressed that the state of Palestine continues to cooperate with the ICC and the staff of the prosecutor's office to submit all documented information that proves that Israeli military and civilian officials have committed serious and continuous crimes against the Palestinian people. He stressed that all of these crimes fall within the jurisdiction of the ICC.

The top Palestinian diplomat stressed the importance of the ICC and its role in holding war criminals accountable in light of the rise to power of the extremist government of terrorist settlers, who bluntly express their schemes that are based on field executions and forcible expulsion.

The Palestinian minister said bringing the criminals before international justice will contribute to the protection of the Palestinian people and deter crimes committed against them.

Elsewhere in his remarks, he called on the ICC prosecutor to pay a visit to Palestine and give priority to administration of justice.

Palestinian human rights advocates last year hailed a decision by the ICC to affirm its full territorial jurisdiction over the occupied Palestinian territories.

Israel is not a member of the ICC, but Palestine was allowed to join in 2015 and has since called for an investigation into Israeli crimes.

See Page 7

## Iranian Oil Tanker Arrives in Venezuela

HOUSTON (Dispatches) - An Iranian tanker carrying about 2 million barrels of ultra-light oil arrived this week in Venezuelan waters, non-government organization announced.

Venezuela and Iran, both under United States sanctions, have recently expanded cooperation mainly through a swap that provides Venezuela's state-run oil company PDVSA with light oil for refining and diluents to produce exportable crude grades. PDVSA in return supplies Iran with Venezuelan heavy oil and fuel.

The Iran-flagged tanker Dore was seen in satellite images near PDVSA's Jose terminal on Monday, it was reported. It was previously seen near Asaluyeh, in the Iranian province of Bushehr, in October, Jungman added.

PDVSA did not immediately reply to a request for comment. Dore's transponder was offline in late October after loading the condensate cargo, Refinitiv Eikon vessel

In November, two supertankers linked to Iran departed from Venezuelan waters carrying Venezuelan crude and fuel oil for Iran's state firm Naftiran Intertrade Co (NICO), according to internal PDVSA's exports schedules.

See Page 7

## Iran Condemns U.S. Sanctions at Hague Court of Justice Session

LONDON (IRNA) - Iran's representative at The Hague International Court of Justice said that U.S. sanctions block the path for the foundation's investigating Washington's criminal acts and are therefore condemned.

Legal Affairs Consultant of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Nasser Asiaipour in Tuesday's session of the Hague International Court of Justice elaborated on the latest viewpoints of the Islamic Republic of Iran on U.S. sanctions against Iran and some other countries.

He said that such unilaterally imposed sanctions by the United States against the Islamic Republic of Iran, some other countries, and even some international organizations, are aimed at terrifying them and that the International Court of Justice at The Hague must act against such sanctions that also block the path for that court's objectives.

The committed crimes by U.S. citizens and the country itself, including the illegitimate and illegally imposed sanctions, equal bullying, he said.

The Iranian diplomat said that the U.S. has been trying to impose its hegemonic tendencies against many countries, including the Islamic Republic of Iran for many years.

Asiaipour also referred to the presented lawsuits to the International Court of Justice in The Hague on Afghanistan and Palestine, saying that those two lawsuits must be surveyed comprehensively and all the criminals in them must receive fair punishments.

Sokhan Gostar Institute

# IRAN NEWS

PRIVATE ENGLISH NEWSPAPER IN IRAN

Advertisement Department  
021-44253335-39

www.irannewsdaily.com  
info@irannewsdaily.com

@irannewsdaily @irannewsdaily

## Tehran, Minsk Hold Joint consular Meeting in Tehran

TEHRAN (MNA) – A joint consular meeting between Iran and Belarus was held on Tuesday to facilitate judicial and political cooperation.

The joint consular meeting of Iran and Belarus started on Tuesday in Tehran with the presence of some Iranian Foreign Ministry officials, the Ministry of Justice representatives, the International Police and the border police of the two countries.

Various issues such as judicial cooperation, facilitating the issuance of visas for nationals of the two countries, border cooperation and the fight against human trafficking and illegal immigration, as well as finalizing the document on the transfer of convicts, were among the main topics discussed in the meeting.

## Iran Main Partner of India In North-South Corridor

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

**TEHRAN - The Indian ambassador to Iran said that Iran is the fulcrum and the main partner in the North-South corridor, adding that the Prime Minister of India has invited the Central Asian countries to cooperate with New Delhi in developing the Chabahar port.**

India and Iran signed a series of agreements that will allow New Delhi to use the port of Chabahar to access Central Asia and Afghanistan.

The first agreement, a bilateral, signed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's May 22-23, 2016 visit, will provide India the right to develop and operate two terminals and five berths with multipurpose cargo handling capacities in the port of Chabahar for 10 years.

After the bilateral, Prime Minister Modi and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani were joined by Dr. Ashraf Ghani, President of Afghanistan, who sealed the agreement for the Trilateral Transport and Transit Corridor connecting Chabahar with the Afghan road and rail network.

Iran's Chabahar Free Zone on the coast of the Oman Sea creates a safe and short route between the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf, West and Central Asia, as well as the Caucasus and Europe.

Accordingly, the Indian government had earlier requested that Chabahar Port be included in the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) connecting Mumbai to Moscow.



INSTC is a 7,200-km-long multi-mode network of ship, rail, and road routes for moving freight between India, Iran, Azerbaijan, Russia, Central Asia, and Europe.

It has replaced the 16,000-kilometer freight transportation through the Suez Canal with a 7,200-kilometer route, which will result in a 40% reduction in the time it takes to transport goods to their destination and a 30% reduction in transportation costs.

The objective of the corridor is to increase trade connectivity between major cities such as Mumbai, Moscow, Tehran, Baku, Bandar Abbas, Astrakhan, Bandar Anzali, etc.

Gaddam Dharmendra, India's ambassador to Iran, added: The INSTC is an important dimension governing India-Iran relations, which is of special attention and in the program priorities of the senior officials of the two countries.

Stating that the INSTC provides a historic opportunity to deepen India's relations and connections with its neighbors, Dharmendra underscored: The INSTC is a multi-modal transit route in which Iran plays the main role and as a fulcrum.

According to the Indian diplomat, the corridor connects important economies, including India, ASEAN, and East Asia, to Central Asia, Caucasus, Russia, and Eastern Europe.

## Value of Iran-Russia Trade Exceeded \$4b In First 10 Months of 2022

TEHRAN (IFP) - A senior Russian customs official says the value of Iran-Russia trade surpassed \$4 billion in the first 10 months of 2022, with the amount exceeding the figures recorded throughout entire 2021.

Deputy Head of the Federal Customs Service of Russia Vladimir Ivin said the volume of Russian exports to Iran witnessed a 27-percent rise, while its imports from the Islamic Republic increased by 10 percent, compared to the same period last year.

Both Russia and Iran have been the targets of tough Western economic sanctions.

The two countries have largely stepped up their trade relations in the face of the bans.

Last month, Tehran and Moscow signed four new cooperation agreements as part of efforts to deepen energy and economic ties.

The two sides are also mulling over a long-term strategic partnership agreement, similar to the one Iran has signed with China.

## Judiciary Chief Accepts Many Criticisms Against Gov't

TEHRAN (IFP) - Judiciary Chief Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei has said he accepts many criticisms that citizens direct against the government.

Mohseni Ejei was speaking at a gathering of students on Tuesday.

He also spoke about trials of those involved in the protests and deadly riots that broke out in parts of Iran following the death of a 22-year-old woman in police custody over two months ago.

Mohseni Ejei said it takes time to identify and arrest the main culprits.

The Judiciary chief noted that those who were caught by security forces were put on trial quickly and found guilty with their sentences getting upheld.

Mohseni Ejei further promised to resolve problems in investigating the judicial cases.

Hundreds of protesters have been arrested since the unrest began in Iran in mid-September.

Officials say more than 200 people have also died in violence. The deaths include security forces like police and the Basij volunteers.

## Israel Will Be Destroyed If Attacks Iran

TEHRAN (IFP) - Army Chief Abdolrahim Mousavi has warned the Zionist regime against attacking Iran, saying the Zionist regime will be destroyed in case of attacking Iran.

Mousavi said if Israel is in a rush for destruction, it should launch an assault on Iran.

He was speaking in an interview with Yemen's Al Masirah Television Channel. The Iranian Army chief noted that undoubtedly, Israel will be destroyed.

Mousavi also described the Israeli regime as cowardly, saying Tel Aviv seeks to show power based on an illusion through simulating an attack on Iran's nuclear sites.

Iran has repeatedly warned its enemies like the US and Israel against any aggression on the Islamic Republic.

Tehran has said such a move would provoke a devastating response from Iranian armed forces.

## MPs Give Vote of Confidence To New Road Minister

TEHRAN (IP) – Lawmakers on Wednesday gave a vote of confidence to President Ebrahim Raisi's nominee for the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development, Mehrdad Bazrpash.

Bazrpash got the approval of Majlis with 187 votes in favor of him and 64 votes against him and became Iran's new minister of roads and urban development.

Seven lawmakers abstained, and five of the votes were dismissed votes.

Mehrdad Bazrpash was Chairman of the Supreme Audit Court (SAC) of Iran.

Former Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development Rostam Qasemi resigned due to his deteriorating health condition.

After Qasemi's resignation, Shahriar Afandizadeh, a high-ranking official of the ministry, was introduced as the caretaker of the ministry.

Parliament members examined the competence of the proposed Minister of Roads and Urban Development, Mehrdad Bazrpash.

As an opponent lawmaker, Mahdi Askari said that the proposed minister was not well aware of the root problems in the country's construction field and his plans for the problems were not clear.

As a proponent, Kiumars Sarmadi said Bazrpash was a capable person and that the administration was expected to use his experience and talent to solve the people's housing problems.

He said that the proposed minister acted on time in budget settlement reports in the Supreme Audit Court of Iran.

Another lawmaker, Hossein Hatami, agreed with the nominated person and said Bazrpash's record is rich and had plans to solve housing problems, including practices to supply the financial sources of the building.



## Bosnian People Not to Forget Iran's Valuable Aids

TEHRAN (MNA) – Foreign Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina Bisera Turković said that Bosnian people will never forget the valuable assistance of the Islamic Republic of Iran during the war.

Bisera Turković made the remarks in a meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian in Sarajevo.

During the meeting, Amirabdollahian termed the relations between Iran and Bosnia and Herzegovina "positive and growing" in all fields, saying that Balkan is an important region.

Iran's top diplomat called Bosnia and Herzegovina a traditional friend and added that Iran will always stand by Balkan and Herzegovina.

He then pointed to the capacity of cooperation in the economic sector, especially in the fields of agriculture, tourism and mining, stating that the two countries enjoy the high potential to expand their ties in all fields.

Turning to the geopolitical situation of Iran en route North-South and South-East Corridor, Amirabdollahian



emphasized expanding ties with Bosnia and Herzegovina in this respect.

Iranian and Bosnian foreign ministers, in addition to discussing bilateral ties, exchanged their views on a host of issues regarding the

removal of sanctions, and the latest regional and international developments including Palestine, Yemen, and Ukraine.

During his visit to Sarajevo, he also met with the Head of the Islamic Community in Bosnia and Herzegovina Husein Kavazović.

The two sides discussed the latest situation and common values of Muslims as well as the common culture and history between the two countries of Iran and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Turning to the increase of Islamophobia in the world and the difficult duties of the spiritual leadership of Muslims in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iran's top diplomat appreciated the unsparing efforts of Mr. Kavazović in this respect.

The Head of the Islamic Community in Bosnia and Herzegovina, for his part, hailed the unsparing and unflinching support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the Bosnian people during the war.

## Student Day, Symbol of U.S. Scandal Before Iran

TEHRAN (IP) – Majlis Speaker commemorated the National Day of Student (16 Azar in Iranian calendar) coinciding with December 7, calling it the symbol of independence-seeking and the fight against the world's arrogant powers after U.S. scandals in Iran.

Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf delivered a speech on the occasion of 'Student Day' on Wednesday and said: 'Azar 16' showed the U.S. debasement and scandal before the eyes of the Iranian nation.

He said eternal stain is with all those who prefer the aliens' interests over the Iranian nation's and sought a destroyed Iran. On December 7, 1953, upon the arrival of the US' then-Vice President Richard Nixon, the troops of 'Shah' opened fire on the students of Tehran University's Faculty of Engineering, killing and wounding dozens of Students.

Ahmad Ghandchi, Mahdi Shariat-Razavi, and Mostafa Bozorgnia were martyred.

Student Day commemorates a moment in the history of the Iranian nation's fight against the US interventionist policies; therefore, the Azar 16 is of paramount importance in the formation of student campaigns and giving identity to them in Iran.

## Iran Embassy Provides Special Consular Services in Four Turkey Cities

ANKARA (IP) - Iran's ambassador to Turkey said that within the framework of the Iranian government's policies of providing more support to Iranian citizens abroad, special consular services are being supplied to Iranians in the cities of Ankara, Istanbul, Trabzon, and Erzurum.

Mohammad Farazmand, Iranian ambassador to Turkey, said: "Extensive consular services outside the official Iranian embassies in Turkey started with the COVID outbreak and are carried out several times every year."

He noted that consular services, including passport renewal and replacement, translation of driver's licenses, and other consular services, are being carried out in political and consular missions of Iran in Ankara, Istanbul, Trabzon, and Erzurum.

The ambassador of Iran in Turkey pointed out the successful experience of Iranian consular groups in Istanbul to provide services to Iranians living in western Turkey in Izmir Province and the consular group of the Iranian embassy in Ankara to provide services to Iranians living in southern regions of Turkey continues since the COVID outbreak.

He highlighted that with the infrastructural development of consular services of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran, suitable conditions had been provided to provide all consular services to Iranians abroad online.

Farazmand said that the latest announcements and consular rules for Iranians abroad are communicated to Iranians living abroad through virtual systems managed by Iran's political and consular agencies. No request has been left unanswered.

## Auction 140112



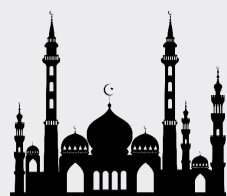
**SIRJAN JAHAN STEEL COMPLEX intends to sell 15.000 tons of steel billet through a tender in accordance with the terms and conditions attached herewith. Should you wish to make a proposal, please submit your price offer by taking into account the relevant terms and conditions set out below and have all of the required documents attached thereto. Please be advised that any bid submitted after the specified date will not be considered and the decision in respect of the bid, which is exclusively reserved for SIRJAN JAHAN STEEL COMPLEX, will be announced in writing.**

**Deadline for sending envelopes is 12:00 on Tuesday (20/12/2022) local time in Iran**

**The opening time of the envelope is 13:00 on Tuesday (20/12/2022) local time in Iran**

**The opening of the auction envelope is done once and does not include extension of time and announcement of new price.**

SIRJAN JAHAN STEEL COMPLEX



## PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	11:56
■ Evening (Maghreb)	17:11
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	05:32
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	07:02

62. So they disputed, one with another, over their affair, but they kept their talk secret.  
63. They said: "These two are certainly (expert) magicians: their object is to drive you out from your land with their magic, and to do away with your most cherished institutions.

Surah 20. Ta-ha (62 - 63)

## Iran to Cooperate With 6 Asian, European Companies in Exploration

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

**TEHRAN – Director of Exploration of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) says the company is to cooperate with five Asian and one European country in the field of exploration.**

Speaking to ILNA, Mehdi Fakour talked about the latest development regarding the Yalda Oilfield and said that they think the field has not only oil but also gas and according to the approval of the NIOC, the second exploration well is under construction and there is no special problem.

He added that the company hands over the exploration results to the producing companies and producing companies should implement the developmental programs on them.

He reiterated that due to the geographical position of South Pars, they expect the reserves of the area are more than what exist now in other words it has great potentials.

Fakour reiterated that the company does not focus only on a certain field unless for its necessity and it is omnipresent in all fields and it will help time sharing and reducing costs. He stated that therefore they defined some projects with five Asian and one European company which cover all geography of Iran and in fact there is issue about certain field and results of all fields are useable and producing companies can do development based on the company's method.

On cooperation with countries like Russia in exploration projects, he said that NIOC has a study working with Geocom Company of Russia in one of the



blocks whose study results will be seen in the Abadan Plain.

Yalda Oilfield is located 30 kilometers east of the South Pars Gas Field in southern Iran.

Two years ago and former director of Exploration of the NIOC Mr. Seyed Ali Moallemi said that there would be some 80 undiscovered fields and some drilling project was underway in the Yalda Oilfield and it is approaching its end.

On Tuesday and in a press conference, Fakour said that Iran discovered new oil reserves in the country's southwest, the details of which will be announced by Minister of Petroleum Javad Owji in the near future.

Iranian experts have also carried out well-logging on an offshore exploratory block in the Persian Gulf with gas reserves estimated at 30 trillion cubic feet, Fakour announced.

"For the first time, we have achieved the method of aerial magnetometry which is used up to a depth of 7,000 meters below the surface of the earth to identify reservoirs and hydrocarbon fields," the official said.

The technique involves using unmanned aircraft and magnetometers equipped with georeferencing systems and other navigation instruments to perform magnetic scans.

## Iran Alloy Steel Co. Is a University

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – The CEO of Iran Alloy Steel Company (IASC) terms the company a university which trains many experts and skillful human resources.



Speaking in a ceremony for welcoming new employees of the company, Eng. Alireza Chaychi Yazdi said that Iran Alloy Steel Company is a university and a place for learning and garnering experience, adding that the IASC is a sacred name and it has a special position which has been achieved since its establishment in 1988 due to hard working and efforts of its staff and managers who established the complex and transferred it to the current staff and management now it is their turn to improve the position of the company with their capabilities.

He went on to say that today the company meet the demands of 16 specialized and mother industries, adding that Iran Alloy Steel Company has turned into one of the biggest honors of the country and one of the reasons for this achievement is its specialized and efficient human resources and the current staff is part of those skillful forces.

Chaychi went on to say that Iran Alloy Steel Company is the only steel knowledge-based company in Iran with a view on designing products, and expressed hope he beside the specialized, expert and efficient forces would improve reputation of the company in the near future.

He stated that the company produces 52,000 tons of steel per month and its steel production has surpassed 500,000 tons with high profitability and quality as well as the lowest waste and scrap because of its efficient personnel.

Then deputy head and advisor to the CEO Eng. Khabiri pointed to the position of Iran Alloy Steel Company in the national steel industry and called the company as the biggest and most disciplined company in the alloy steel production and noted that there have been years of endeavors to take the company to the current reputed position and now this is handed over to the most talented and passionate youth to continue the path.

## Iran, Tajikistan Agree To Use Local Currencies In Bilateral Trade

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran and Tajikistan have agreed to include local currencies in bilateral trade as the two countries seek to reduce the role of the US dollar in their growing economic and energy ties.

Tajikistan's Minister of Energy and Water Resources Daler Juma said that his country and Iran will start to use national and regional currencies to settle trade payments.

"Trade between the two countries will be settled in recognized currencies as well as in the official currencies of the two countries," said Juma during a visit to Iran.

The minister made the announcement at the end of a 15th round of Iranian-Tajikistani intergovernmental economic commission in Tehran.

Local media reports said Iran and Tajikistan had reached new agreements during the meeting to boost their economic and energy ties.

Iran's Energy Minister Ali Akbar Mehrabian said Iranian energy and construction companies will increase their contribution to the Rogun megaproject, the world's tallest dam which includes a giant hydropower plant.

Mehrabian said Iran and Tajikistan had also reached some good agreements to boost their trade of food, medicine and petroleum products.

## Iran Non-Oil Export to Iraq Hits 6% Growth in 7 Months

TEHRAN (MNA) - According to the official statistics of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), Iran's non-oil export of commodities to neighboring Iraq registered a six percent growth in the seven months of this year.

The Iranian Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade announced on Tuesday that the export of 85 Iranian products to Iraq has registered growth this year (started March 21, 2022).

Regarding Iran's export of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) to Iraq, Iran exported \$1.6 billion worth of LNG in the seven months (March 21-Oct.22), showing an 82 percent decline as compared to the last year's corresponding period.

## Gas Production Accelerated in South Pars

TEHRAN (Shana) -- The CEO of South Pars Gas Complex announced that with the introduction of the cold snap in the country and the decrease in temperature and the consequent increase in consumption in the domestic and commercial sectors, the 13 refineries of South Pars have put the mission of maximum gas production on their agenda.

Ahmad Bahoush said: "The employees of the South Pars Gas Complex are on full alert with all their power and equipment to produce the gas needed by the country, and they move with accurate and regular planning for the economy to run and ensure comfort and welfare of the people."

The offshore South Pars joint gas field accounts for 75% of Iran's gas production.

Referring to the strategic importance of the South

Pars gas complex in the path of Iran's development, he added this complex, with the daily production of more than 570 million cubic meters of gas in its refineries, can properly provide a clear horizon for the country's economy, provide maximum gas during the cold days of the year.

The CEO of South Pars Gas Complex stated: "Since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year in March, more than 123 billion cubic meters of gas have been transferred to the national gas grid with the hard work and efforts of specialists and employees of South Pars Gas Complex."

Bahoush stated: "By taking significant and innovative measures and relying on local knowledge, we have been able to process more than 143 billion cubic meters of gas from the platforms since the beginning of this year."

## Iran Ranked World's 7th Biggest Cement Producer in 2021

TEHRAN (MNA) - Iran produced 63 million tons of cement in 2021 to be ranked the world's seventh biggest cement producer, IRIB reported citing international statistics.

As reported, the Islamic Republic also exported 14.4 million tons of cement in the previous year to stand in fourth place among the world's top cement exporters.

Based on the Iranian Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry data, Iranian cement complexes have managed to export 7.6 million tons of the product in the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-October 22), registering a four percent increase compared to the figure for the previous year's same period.

The Islamic Republic was ranked the world's fifth

biggest cement producer in 2020, producing 69 million tons of the products. Iranian cement industry has a history of more than eight decades of activity.

Currently, there are 96 cement production lines active in 74 factories across Iran, and nearly half of them are less than

10 years old. This is an indication that new production units have a greater share of the total output in this sector.

Neighboring countries are not only consumers of Iranian cement but also demand the transfer of the cement industry's technology to their countries.

## World Top 300 Cooperatives Announced

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – The World Cooperative Monitor announced the names of the top 300 cooperatives of the world in 2020.

The public relations of Iran Chamber of Cooperatives (ICC), the World Cooperative Monitor in its annual evaluation of cooperatives in the world chose the ICC as one of the top 300 cooperatives of the world and it announced the top 300 cooperatives of the year after evaluating the financial performance of them.

The main goal of the World Cooperative Monitor project produced by Euricse and the ICA is to develop a multi-dimensional database reporting on the socio-economic value and impact of cooperatives both within a global scenario and in their regional and national contexts.

According to reports, Groupe Credit Agricole of France with annual turnover of \$88.97b ranked first. Reve Group of Germany with annual turnover of \$77.93%, BVR of Germany with \$58.02b, Zen-Noh of Japan with \$57.69 and ACDLEC Leclerc from France with \$54.83b ranked second to fifth.

A statistical review shows that among the top 300 cooperatives companies with top turnover, producer cooperative companies with 42% top the list of different cooperatives and reinsurance companies with 28% is the second top cooperatives in the world.

The 2022 issue of the World Cooperative Monitor report explores the economic and

social impact of the largest cooperatives and mutuals worldwide, providing rankings of the top 300, sector rankings, and employment data. 2022 marks the 11th edition of this annual research report, which also contains a focus on the topic of digitalization in relation to large cooperatives and the cooperative identity. The rankings is announced based on the turnovers.

It was presented in a webinar on 1 December 2022 in collaboration with ICETT exploring how member democratic control (second cooperative principle) and consequent membership engagement can be enhanced through the use of digital tools, with a particular focus on consumer cooperatives.

2022 marked the 11th edition of the annual research report produced by the International Cooperative Alliance with the scientific and technical support of the European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises (Euricse).

Among the top 300 companies 91 were from the Americas, 168 from Europe and 41 one from Asia and Oceania.

Lack of attention to cooperative sector, devaluation and fluctuation of forex rate, cruel sanctions have the main reasons that kept Iran out of the top 300 list and in case problems are solved, successful Iranian cooperative companies can enter the list of top 300 cooperatives of the world.



## Exports From Cooperative Sector Reach \$800m in H1

TEHRAN (MNA) - Commodities worth about \$800 million were exported by Iran's cooperative sector during the first six months of the current Iranian year (March 21- September 21), deputy minister of cooperatives, labor, and social welfare, Mehdi Maskani, said.

As IRNA reported, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Turkey, and Russia were the first five export destinations for the goods produced by Iranian cooperatives in the first half of 1401, according to Maskani.

Cooperatives active in agriculture, food industry, handicrafts, handwoven carpets, minerals, and mineral industries had the biggest share in the exports during the said period.

## Mongolians Clash With Police in Protest

ULAANBAATAR (Dispatches) - Mongolian protesters clashed with police as they tried to storm parliament after thousands gathered in freezing temperatures to demonstrate against soaring inflation and government corruption.

The protests began in the capital Ulaanbaatar on Sunday, triggered by allegations that surfaced two months ago of government officials profiting from illegal sales of coal to China, independent broadcaster TenGer TV said.

Demonstrators clashed with police on Monday in front of the Government Palace where parliament sits. Large crowds were seen chanting slogans, demanding officials come out and face the people.



## Congolese Gov't Ups Toll In Massacre to 272 Civilians

KINSHASA (Dispatches) - Democratic Republic of Congo's government said 272 civilians were killed in a massacre in the eastern town of Kishishe last week, raising the death toll from a previous estimate of 50.

The government blamed the killings on the M23 rebel group, which has denied responsibility. It also said the rebels were backed by members of the Rwandan army, a frequent accusation by the Congolese government which Rwanda has consistently denied.

Rwandan authorities could not be reached for comment. Congo's army and the M23, a Tutsi-led militia, have been locked in fighting for months in the country's east.



## Ukraine Appears to Expose Russian Air Defense With Long-Range Strikes



KYIV (Dispatches) - A third Russian airfield was ablaze from a drone strike, a day after Ukraine demonstrated an apparent new ability to penetrate hundreds of kilometers deep into Russian air space with attacks on two Russian air bases.

Officials in the Russian city of Kursk, around 90 km (60 miles) north of the Ukraine border, released pictures of black smoke above an airfield in Tuesday's early hours after the latest strike. The governor said an oil storage tank had gone up in flames but there were no casualties.

It came a day after Russia confirmed it had been hit hundreds of kilometres from Ukraine by what it said were Soviet-era drones - at Engels air base, home to Russia's strategic bomber fleet, and in Ryazan, a few hours' drive from Moscow.

Kyiv did not directly claim responsibility for the strikes, but nonetheless celebrated them.

"If Russia assesses the incidents were deliberate attacks, it will probably consider them as some of the most strategically significant failures of force protection since its invasion of Ukraine," Britain's ministry of defense said on Tuesday.

Russia's defense ministry said three service members were killed in the attack at Ryazan. Although the attacks struck military targets, it characterized them as terrorism and said the aim was to disable its long-range aircraft.

The New York Times, citing a senior Ukrainian official, said the drones involved in Monday's attacks were launched from Ukrainian territory, and at least one of the strikes was carried out with the help of special forces close to the base.

Ukraine never publicly acknowledges responsibility for attacks inside Russia. Asked about the strikes, Defence Minister Oleskiy Reznikov repeated a longstanding joke blaming carelessness with cigarettes. "Very often Russians smoke in places where it's forbidden to smoke," he said.

Ukrainian presidential adviser Oleksiy Arestovych went further, noting that Engels is Russia's only base fully equipped for the fleet of huge bombers Moscow has used to attack Ukraine.

"They will try to disperse (strategic aircraft) to airfields, but all this complicates the operation against Ukraine. Yesterday, thanks to their 'unsuccessful smoking', we achieved a very big result," he said.

The damage to the warplanes also caused grumbling among Russian military bloggers, whose social media posts can provide a window into the mood in Russia on the course of the war.

"And I, a naive civilian fool, thought that planes were kept under concrete shelters during war, no?" wrote Vladlen Tatarsky. "It turns out that small drones, the danger from which was so neglected, can attack strategic aircraft."

The huge Tupolev long-range bombers that Russia stations at Engels form a big part of its strategic nuclear arsenal, similar to the B-52s deployed by the United States during the Cold War. Russia has used them in its campaign since October to destroy Ukraine's energy grid with near weekly waves of missile strikes.

The Engels base, near the city of Saratov, is at least 600 km (372 miles) from the nearest Ukrainian territory.

Russia responded to Monday's attacks with what it called a "massive strike on Ukraine's military control system", though it did not identify any specific military targets for what Ukraine called Moscow's latest strikes on civilian infrastructure.

Missiles across Ukraine destroyed homes and knocked out power, but the impact seemed less severe than barrages last month that pitched millions of Ukrainians into darkness and cold.

Ukraine's air force said it had shot down more than 60 of around 70 missiles. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said at least four people were killed.

## Croatia Sets Sights on Europe's Border-Free Club

STARA GRADISKA (Dispatches) - If Croatia gets approval this week to join the world's largest visa-free area, the massive queues of vehicles at the borders with its European neighbors will become history.

European Union justice ministers meet on Thursday to decide whether to admit Croatia into the passport-free Schengen zone, which enables more than 400 million people to move freely around its 26 member nations.

One of the main sticking points has been questions over Croatia's ability to police what is the 27-nation EU's longest external land border, at a time when migration remains a key challenge for the country.

Zagreb's application in 2016 to join Schengen has also come at a sensitive time for Europe.

Since 2015, millions of migrants, many from conflict zones, have risked their lives to enter the EU illegally and then the Covid 19 pandemic hit in 2020.

Both prompted Schengen countries to reintroduce certain border controls.



## Finland Must Lift Arms Embargo on Turkey

ANKARA (Dispatches) - Finland must lift an arms embargo on Ankara as a condition to securing support from Turkey for its NATO membership bid, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said.

Finland and Sweden both asked to join NATO this year in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, but longtime member Turkey refused to endorse their request until a number of demands were met, including taking a tougher stance against Kurdish militants and removing a ban on arms sales.

While Sweden lifted the embargo in September - initially imposed by both countries in 2019 in response to Ankara's incursion against the Syrian Kurdish YPG militia - Finland has not followed suit.

"It is important that Finland's defence minister is coming to Turkey," Cavusoglu said, referring to a visit scheduled for Dec. 8. "Because there has not yet been a statement from Finland that they have lifted the arms embargo against us. We expect such a statement from them," he added.

Ankara has accused the Nordic countries, mainly Sweden, of harbouring people it considers terrorists, including members of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) and the group accused of orchestrating a 2016 failed coup.

It has requested that Stockholm extradite a number of these people. Turkey said Sweden's extradition of a Kurdish man at the weekend was a "good start" but cautioned that more needed to be done. Cavusoglu said on Tuesday the man was not one of those Ankara had requested from Stockholm and that people on the list still needed to be extradited and their assets seized.

Stockholm and Helsinki deny sheltering militants but have pledged to cooperate with Ankara to fully address its security concerns and also to lift arms embargoes.

NATO makes its decisions by consensus, meaning that the two Nordic nations require the approval of all 30 alliance member states. Only Turkey still stands opposed to their membership, though Hungary has also yet to ratify it.

If on Thursday Croatia gets the green light to join Schengen -- potentially alongside Bulgaria and Romania -- the kilometers-long (miles-long) vehicle queues at the Bregana border crossing with Slovenia will become a thing of the past.

Bregana is one of 73 land crossings with EU neighbors Slovenia and Hungary that would cease to exist.

"On January 1, we will raise the barriers and border traffic will be free," the head of the national border police service, Zoran Niceno, told AFP. At airports, the change will kick in on March 26, due to technical issues.

Croatia hopes joining Schengen would boost its lucrative tourism industry.

This year, the country of 3.9 million people hosted four times as many visitors, most of them from other EU states.

Removing border controls would enable holidaymakers to reach Croatian destinations faster, the head of the national tourist board, Kristjan Stanicic, said recently.

"International carriers will be delighted," said Vladimir Jurcec of the national road hauliers' association.

## Thousands Protest Teen's Shooting in Greece

THESSALONIKI (Dispatches) - Thousands of protesters demonstrated in Athens, Thessaloniki and other Greek cities against police violence, a day after a Roma youth was shot in the head in a police pursuit.

The demonstrations were part of planned annual commemorations to mark the 2008 death of Alexandros Grigoriopoulos, a 15-year-old fatally shot by police.

His death shocked the nation and sparked days of youth riots in major cities at the time.

Police estimated more than 11,000 protesters turned out across the country on Tuesday.

Around 4,000 police were deployed in Athens with tensions running high after Monday's shooting.

A police motorcyclist in Greece's second city Thessaloniki early on Monday shot a 16-year-old Roma boy after he drove away from a petrol station without paying.

The teenager was hospitalized and in a critical condition, according to media reports.

Some of the most violent protests Tuesday were in Thessaloniki, where police fired tear gas after protesters set fire to rubbish bins and threw rocks and Molotov cocktails at riot police.

Some 6,500 rallied in Athens where a banner referenced the unpaid 20-euro (\$21) petrol bill, saying "A life is worth 20 euros".

A police officer has been arrested and charged with attempted manslaughter over the incident.

The Greek police department said the youth had tried to ram officers in pursuit on motorbikes in his attempt to evade arrest.

A group of Roma on Tuesday threw objects at riot police outside the courts in Thessaloniki where police said about 5,000 people joined the demonstration.

In Athens, another group set fire to bins on a major highway.

There are frequent claims that police in Greece are poorly trained.

A senior police unionist on Tuesday told state TV ERT that the officer who shot the Roma teen is a 14-year veteran.

On Monday evening, Roma protesters set roadblocks ablaze, threw Molotov cocktails at riot police and smashed shop windows in the center of Thessaloniki.

Another Roma youth was killed in 2021 near the port of Piraeus, also in a police pursuit.



## Hungary Vetoes EU Aid For Ukraine, Bloc Delays Decision On Funds for Budapest

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) - Hungary vetoed an 18 billion euro (\$19 bln) loan to Ukraine from the European Union as its row with the bloc over undermining democracy rumbled on and the other 26 member states delayed a decision on releasing billions of aid to Budapest.

At an EU economics and finance ministers' meeting in Brussels, Hungarian minister Mihaly Varga confirmed his government's opposition to a loan for Ukraine financed by joint EU borrowing. Budapest has said it would provide bilateral help to Kyiv.

Varga's Lithuanian colleague, however, told Reuters ahead of the talks that it was "immoral" for Hungary to hold up EU aid for Ukraine. She said Hungary was using this as a bargaining chip to get other member states to agree to handing billions of euros from their joint EU budget to Budapest.

On Tuesday, the chairman of the ministerial meeting said Hungary's position would not stop the other members from aiding Ukraine.

"We will not be discouraged. Our ambition remains that we'll start the disbursement of our aid to Ukraine in January," said the Czech Republic's Finance Minister Zbynek Stanjura.

"This means we will be looking for a solution supported by 26 member states," without Hungary, he added.

Without Budapest's approval however, raising the funds is bound to be more complicated and could take longer.

Locked in a tug-of-war with Hungary, the ministers decided to take off Tuesday's agenda any decision about 7.5 billion euros in EU funds earmarked for Hungary.

The ministers had been supposed to vote on a recommendation last week by the bloc's executive European Commission to freeze the money, worth 65% of cohesion funds assigned to Hungary from the EU budget until the end of 2027, over corruption risks.

The ministers also delayed any decision on Budapest's spending plan for another 5.8 billion euros envisaged for Hungary from the bloc's economic stimulus fund, set up to help economies recover from the COVID pandemic.

## Head of UN Agency Seeks FIFA Deal for World Cup Labor Rights Role



DOHA (Dispatches) - After fierce criticism of the Qatar World Cup, the head of the UN labor agency pressed FIFA's president for a greater role scrutinizing future World Cup hosts.

International Labor Organization director general Gilbert Houngbo told AFP before meeting with Gianni Infantino that Qatar has been a victim of "double standards" and has made significant progress but more needs to be done for its migrant laborers.

The ILO is seeking a role carrying out "due diligence" on future candidate countries, Houngbo said in an interview.

FIFA has faced increased pressure after years of criticism of labor rights in Qatar, ranging from controversy over deaths on mega construction projects to unpaid salaries and working in the Persian Gulf state's fierce summer heat.

Houngbo said he believes "FIFA is very determined to make sure that for future World Cups, or the next attribution, the social question, the question of respect of worker standards, are critical questions in the decision".

The former Togo prime minister said respect for human rights had to include "rights linked to work and especially health and safety at work."

FIFA, which already works with the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights, said after the meeting that talks on a memorandum of understanding with the ILO were not yet complete.

"We have been engaging with the ILO for a number of years and we want to make sure our fruitful cooperation will continue in the future," Infantino said in a statement.

Houngbo said he was "reasonably optimistic" of reaching agreement with FIFA on workers' rights.

"It cannot be the only element in taking a decision but the ILO would be available to carry out a kind of due diligence of all the candidate countries" for FIFA.

He said the same rules should apply "for the Olympic Games and other sports."

The 2026 World Cup will be held in the United States, Canada and Mexico. "In theory, we have no problem. But that does not prevent us from remaining vigilant," said Houngbo.

The ILO has had a temporary office in Doha since 2018 advising the Qatar government on its reforms and monitoring conditions for migrant workers who make up nearly 90 percent of the 2.9 million population.

Houngbo has also held talks with Qatar on making the office a permanent base, the first in the Gulf region where nearly all countries face criticism of labour rights.

The ILO chief said many of the attacks on Qatar had shown "double standards".

"I have heard harsh criticism of Qatar, when Qatar has done more in this field than other countries. But nothing is said about the other countries."

Houngbo said Qatar deserved praise for dismantling its punitive 'Kafala' labor system -- which prevented workers from changing jobs or leaving the country without an employer's permission -- introducing a minimum wage and restricting hours that can be worked in heat since international unions made an official complaint to the ILO in 2014.

The government, which has expressed dismay at what it has called "racist" attacks, says it has spent more than \$350 million in compensation for stolen and unpaid wages since 2018.

"This shows the engagement of the government and the size of the problem," said the ILO chief.

A "small number" of companies "continue to have illegal practices and that is where we have to continue to work."

## Records That Tumbled in 2022



PARIS (Dispatches) - From roasting temperatures to rocketing energy prices and millions of refugees fleeing Ukraine, 2022 was a year of extremes.

**AFP looks back at some of the records smashed:**

### Food and energy prices

Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February caused a massive jump in energy and food costs, with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization's Food Price Index hitting a historic peak in March and the cost of gas in Europe reaching record highs.

The eurozone annual inflation climbed steadily to 10.6 percent in October, the biggest increase since the index began in 1997.

### Refugees

The war also triggered the biggest wave of refugees in Europe since the end of World War II. More than 7 million Ukrainians fled to other European countries and a further 6.9 million were displaced internally, according to the UN refugee agency UNHCR.

Globally, the number of displaced people exceeded 100 million for the first time.

### Burning up

Europe sweated through its hottest summer on record, with records tumbling in many countries, including England where the mercury topped 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) for the first time. Forest fires linked to the hotter, drier conditions also guzzled more land than ever before in Europe -- over 600,000 hectares.

### Hail of missiles

North Korea fired a record number of missiles into the Sea of Japan in response to large-scale joint military exercises staged by South Korea and the United States.

A particularly intense peak saw 23 missiles fired in 24 hours on November 2.

### Farewell Queen

After 70 years on the throne, Britain's longest-serving monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, passed away on September 8, aged 96.

Before her massive state funeral, an estimated quarter of a million people queued round the clock to view the coffin as it lay in state.

### Musk mayhem

It was a big year for Elon Musk, the world's richest man whose fortune was estimated by Forbes at close to \$200 billion at the start of December.

The CEO of Tesla and SpaceX added Twitter to his portfolio for \$44 billion and swiftly caused controversy, by firing half the staff and unbanning people who had been thrown off the platform, including Donald Trump.

### New artistic heights

The art collection of Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen, which included works by Cezanne, Klimt and Van Gogh, was sold by Christie's for \$1.62 billion, the biggest amount ever for an art auction.

Marilyn Monroe was a big hitter too, with one of her photo portraits by Andy Warhol selling for \$195 million, making it the most expensive 20th century artwork.

### Tennis titans

When Rafael Nadal won the French Open for the 14th time, the Spanish ace raised his own record of Grand Slam titles to 22, ahead of Novak Djokovic (21) and Roger Federer (20).



**Don't Waste Your Time**

Visit our website to choose your desired rental Properties

**www.DeltaHOME.ir**

The Most Specialized Website for Foreigners

**HOME**  
Real Estate

Member of **DELTA** Real Estate Group  
(021) 88888865



## India's Sugar Output Set to Drop 7%, Could Crimp Exports

SOLAPUR (Dispatches) - India's sugar output is likely to fall 7% this year as erratic weather conditions have cut cane yields, which could dampen exports from the world's biggest producer of the sweetener, farmers, millers and traders said.

Lower sugar exports from India, also the world's second biggest exporter, could lift global prices, and allow rivals Brazil and Thailand to increase their shipments.

"The crop was just looking like last year but when we started harvesting we realised that yields were very low," said Pradip Jagtap, a farmer from the Solapur district of the western state of Maharashtra, India's No.1 sugar-producing state.



## UK Economy to Shrink In 2023, Risks Lost Decade

LONDON (Dispatches) - Britain's economy is on course to shrink 0.4% next year as inflation remains high and companies put investment on hold, with gloomy implications for longer-term growth, the Confederation of Business Industry forecast on Monday.

"Britain is in stagflation - with rocketing inflation, negative growth, falling productivity and business investment. Firms see potential growth opportunities but ... headwinds are causing them to pause investing in 2023," CBI Director-General Tony Danker said.

The CBI's forecast marks a sharp downgrade from its last forecast in June, when it predicted growth of 1.0% for 2023, and it does not expect gross domestic product (GDP) to return to its pre-COVID level until mid-2024.

Britain has been hit hard by a surge in natural gas prices following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, as well as an incomplete labor market recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic and persistently weak investment and productivity.

Unemployment would rise to peak at 5.0% in late 2023 and early 2024, up from 3.6% currently, the CBI said.

British inflation hit a 41-year high of 11.1% in October, sharply squeezing consumer demand, and the CBI predicts it will be slow to fall, averaging 6.7% next year and 2.9% in 2024.

The CBI's GDP forecast is less gloomy than that of the British government's Office for Budget Responsibility - which last month forecast a 1.4% decline for 2023.

But the CBI forecast is in line with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), which expects Britain to be Europe's weakest performing economy bar Russia next year.

The CBI forecast business investment at the end of 2024 will be 9% below its pre-pandemic level, and output per worker 2% lower.

To avoid this, the CBI called on the government to make Britain's post-Brexit work visa system more flexible, end what it sees as an effective ban on constructing onshore wind turbines, and give greater tax incentives for investment.

"We will see a lost decade of growth if action isn't taken. GDP is a simple multiplier of two factors: people and their productivity. But we don't have people we need, nor the productivity," Danker said.

Meanwhile a survey on Monday showed that Britain's services sector shrank slightly for a second month running in November, as cost-of-living pressures for households and businesses' uncertainty about the economic outlook squeezed demand.

The S&P Global/CIPS purchasing managers' index (PMI) for the services sector held at 48.2 last month, matching October's 21-month low and an earlier 'flash' estimate for November.

Combined with last week's manufacturing PMI, the data pointed to Britain's economy shrinking at a quarterly pace of 0.4%, S&P Global economist Chris Williamson said.

"This is the toughest spell the UK economy has faced since the global financial crisis excluding only the height of the pandemic," he said.

The composite PMI, which combines services and manufacturing, held at 48.2, its lowest since January 2021 when Britain was in a COVID-19 lockdown.

## Venezuela Sees Oil Exports Financing Almost Two-Thirds of 2023 Budget

CARACAS (Dispatches) - Venezuela's government expects oil exports to finance 63% of its national budget in 2023, a document seen by Reuters showed, a slightly higher proportion than this year, as U.S sanctions against the government are being reviewed.

The review could be positive for oil sales if it allows exports to the United States.

The government of President Nicolas Maduro sees the national budget equivalent to \$14.7 billion, in line with the official exchange rate of 11.6 bolivars to the dollar.

The budget for 2023 is 8.5% higher than the budget for 2022, which came in at \$13.6 billion.

Earnings from state oil company PDVSA will contribute \$9.34 billion to the budget in 2023, according to the document, up 14% on the \$8.2 billion it contributed to government spending in 2022.

The document did not mention crude prices or Venezuela's average daily oil output, as it used to until six years ago.

While global prices have risen this year, Venezuela's flow of oil revenues has been hit by lower production, which has declined due to years of divestment, mismanagement, and sanctions imposed by the United States in 2019.

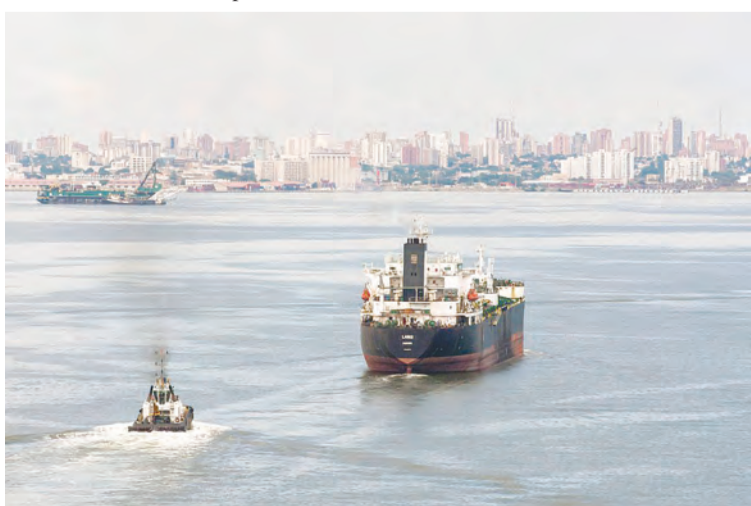
Venezuela's crude output in 2022 has hovered between 600,000 and 700,000 barrels per day (bpd), according to data from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), far below the goal announced by authorities of 1 million bpd.

Venezuelan officials hope oil production will recover after the United States extended U.S. oil major Chevron's license to operate in the country in order to encourage talks between the government and the opposition on Venezuela's political and economic crises.

Tax revenues for next year are estimated at around \$3.24 billion, according to the document, which will cover 22% of government spending.

The rest of the budget will be financed with debt, including bond issues in Venezuela's internal market, and loans.

The document did not include detailed estimates of economic growth and inflation for the coming year. Annual inflation so far in 2022 stands at 155%, according to official data.



## U.S. Services Industry Perks Up; Factory Orders Jump

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - U.S. services industry activity unexpectedly picked up in November, with employment rebounding, offering more evidence of underlying momentum in the economy as it braces for an anticipated recession next year.



The survey from the Institute for Supply Management (ISM) on Monday followed on the heels of news last Friday that the economy continued to create jobs at a solid clip in November, with wage growth accelerating. Consumer spending also rose strongly in October. The Federal Reserve's fastest rate-hiking cycle since the 1980s as it wages war against inflation is stoking anxiety about an economic downturn.

"This is consistent with the recent consumption data in pointing to decent activity growth in the fourth quarter," said Andrew Hunter, a senior U.S. economist at Capital Economics. "But we suspect that resilience will fade next year, as higher interest rates start to take a bigger toll."

The ISM said its non-manufacturing PMI increased to 56.5 last month from 54.4 in October, which was the lowest reading since May 2020. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast the non-manufacturing PMI slipping to 53.3. A reading above 50 indicates expansion in the services sector, which accounts for more than two-thirds of U.S. economic activity.

Thirteen services industries including construction, healthcare and social assistance, retail trade as well as professional, scientific and technical services reported growth last month. But information, wholesale trade and management of companies and support services reported a decline in activity.

Comments from businesses were fairly upbeat. Companies in the construction industry reported that "new business requests are solid."

Professional, scientific and technical services firms noted that though job openings continued to decrease, opportunity for growth remained "with demand for top talent still high and availability still rather scarce." Retailers reported business as "stable." Wholesalers said "business volume appears to be leveling out based on a month-over-month comparison, although we are up significantly when compared to the same month last year."

Finding workers remained a challenge for transportation and warehousing companies.

The flow of solid economic data has raised optimism that the widely feared economic downturn in 2023 would be short and mild. Some economists are even betting that a recession could be avoided, with growth just slowing sharply.

The acceleration in services industry activity confirms that spending is shifting away from goods and that the inflation baton has been handed over to services, indicating that overall price pressures in the economy could take a while to subside.

## Moody's Sees Very High Foreign Exchange Risk for Banks in Ukraine, Turkey

LONDON (Dispatches) - Banks in countries such as Ukraine and Turkey face a "very high" risk from restrictions on capital flows, weak international reserves and a high level of foreign currency debt, Moody's Investors Service said in a report on Monday.

Belarus, El Salvador, Nigeria, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan complete the list of countries also exposed to high levels of dollar deposits, according to the report that covers 39 banking systems in emerging market economies where foreign exchange deposits are 10% or more of total deposits.

"High dollarization causes multiple problems when the local currency drops sharply in value," according to the report headed by Moody's vice-president and senior credit officer Eugene Tarzimanov. "The banks become vulnerable to an increase in defaults on foreign currency loans granted to unhedged borrowers which hurts the banks' profitability, while their liquidity and capital can also come under pressure."

Local currencies across emerging markets have weakened against the U.S. dollar this year as the U.S. Federal Reserve lifted rates amid rising inflation. MSCI's index of emerging market currencies is on course for its sharpest drop since 2015.

Currencies in Ghana, Argentina and Egypt have fallen the most this year, the credit agency said. El Salvador uses the U.S. dollar as legal tender.

Macroeconomic vulnerabilities in Armenia, Georgia, Kenya and Uganda could also affect banks. "Altogether 20 banking systems face high or very high foreign-currency risk," the report added.

## Eurozone Likely Heading Into Mild Recession

LONDON (Dispatches) - Eurozone business activity declined for a fifth month in November, suggesting the economy was sliding into a mild recession as consumers cut spending amid surging inflation, a survey showed on Monday.

S&P Global's final composite Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for the eurozone, seen as a good guide to economic health, nudged up to 47.8 in November from October's 23-month low of 47.3, matching a preliminary estimate.

Anything below 50 indicates contraction.

"A fifth consecutive monthly falling output signaled by the PMI adds to the likelihood that the eurozone is sliding into recession," said Chris Williamson, chief business economist at S&P Global Market Intelligence.

"However, at present, the downturn remains only modest, with an easing in the overall rate of contraction in November means so far the region looks set to see GDP contract by a mere 0.2%."

Economists gave a median 78% chance of a recession in the bloc within a year in a Reuters poll last month and predicted the economy would contract 0.4% this quarter.

With demand falling again and scant prospect of an imminent turnaround firms scaled back on hiring - the employment index slipped to 51.8 from 52.5. Unemployment in the region dipped to 6.5% in October, official data showed on Thursday.

APMI covering the bloc's dominant services industry nudged down to 48.5 from 48.6, its lowest reading since early 2021 and below the preliminary 48.6 estimate.

Still, the input and output prices index both fell suggesting inflationary pressures may have already peaked, likely welcome news to policymakers at the European Central Bank. The output prices index was at a three-month low of 62.3.

Inflation in the bloc was a lower-than-expected 10.0% in November, official preliminary data showed last week, still five times the ECB's 2% target.

The central bank has been raising interest rates to try and tame price rises and is expected to add another 50 basis points later this month.

"With the surveys also bringing signs of inflation having peaked, the headwind on demand from rising prices should also start to ease in coming months, barring severe weather over the winter, hinting that any recession may be both brief and relatively mild," Williamson said.

## Philippines Slashes Economic Growth Outlook for 2023



MANILA (Dispatches) - The Philippine government's economic cluster on Monday downgraded its growth outlook for the coming year, citing external headwinds such as the slowdown in major advanced economies.

In a press conference in Manila, DBCC chairperson and Budget Secretary Amenah Pangandaman said the inter-agency body now expects economic growth between 6.0% to 7.0% in 2023, lower than the earlier projected 6.5% to 8.0%.

The DBCC maintained its forecast range of 6.5% to 7.5% for 2022, with the third-quarter growth recorded at 7.6%, faster than the upwardly adjusted 7.5% in the previous quarter.

"This momentum is expected to slightly decelerate in 2023 and range from 6.0% to 7.0% considering external headwinds such as the slowdown in major advanced economies," Pangandaman said following the DBCC meeting.

Among the external headwinds said to be considered are the expected global economic slowdown, and the renewed lockdowns in China given its zero COVID policy as cases continue to rise.

Moving forward, economic managers expect growth to pick up and range between 6.5% to 8.0% from 2024 to 2028, on the back of strategies and interventions outlined in the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028.

"These include modernizing agriculture and agribusiness, revitalizing the industry sector, and reinvigorating the services sector, among others," Pangandaman said.

In the same press conference, Pangandaman said the DBCC expects inflation to average 5.8% this year, higher than the previous assumption of 4.5% to 5.5%, citing higher prices of food and transport costs.

Inflation clocked in at a 14-year high of 7.7% in October, with analysts expecting an even faster print in November. Official figures are set to be released on Tuesday, December 6.

### Iran, Egypt Review Issues of Mutual Interest

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Ahmad Faisal Muhamad, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Egypt in the UN in Geneva, and his Iranian counterpart Ali Bahraini discussed issues of the agenda of the UN and other international bodies. "Al-Ahram Newspaper" reported that the two envoys reviewed essential issues on the agenda of the United Nations and other specialized institutions.

In recent years, Iran has repeatedly expressed its interest in developing relations with Egypt and has tried to send positive signals in line with the implementation of the policy of expanding ties with the regional countries. Although the relations between these two countries have faced ups and downs in different eras, Iran and Egypt are two important countries in the Middle East.



## OPEC+ Sits Sensibly on Its Hands as Oil Uncertainties Abound

LAUNCESTON (Dispatches) - When faced with a myriad of uncertainties the most sensible path is often to sit back and see how events unfold. That is what OPEC+ has chosen to do with the crude oil market.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies including Russia did what was expected at their meeting on Sunday, sticking to their previous crude output target.

The group's next scheduled meeting is a monitoring committee gathering on Feb. 1, which means that barring some extraordinary developments the current production target will remain steady for some months.

There are several factors currently creating uncertainty in global crude oil markets, and some are likely to push and pull prices in opposing directions.

- The impact on supply of the price cap imposed on Russian crude exports by the Group of Seven plus Australia, as well as the European Union's ban on imports of Russian crude and oil products;
- The state of the world economy, with expectations that demand will decline as the global economy continues to slow amid high inflation and tighter monetary policy;
- The outlook for oil demand in China, the world's biggest importer, which is trying to achieve often contradictory goals of stimulating a soft economy while maintaining tight controls to limit the spread of COVID-19; and
- The ongoing failure of OPEC+ members to produce anywhere close to their stated output targets.

Much of the focus in global oil market has been on the G7 price cap and the EU ban on Russian crude oil imports, both of which commenced on Monday.

Estimates vary as to the extent of the impact, with some analysts saying as much as 1.5 million barrels per day (bpd) of Russian crude could be lost to the global market.

However, physical traders are far less worried, believing that the market will be able to re-route most Russian crude and work around the sanctions.

The Russians have said they won't sell any crude that is subject to a Western price cap, even if it means reducing production.

Then there's the question as to whether the price cap is even needed currently, as Russia's main western export grade of Urals ended at \$63.86 a barrel on Dec. 2, not far above the \$60 cap imposed by the G7.

Perhaps the more important issue for the Russian crude situation is how will barrels be moved, financed and insured, as there are likely to be constraints in tanker availability to ship Urals to Asian buyers such as China and India, and payments and insurance are also likely to become more difficult.

Over time the most likely outcome of the price cap and EU ban on Russian crude is a realignment of flows, with India and China buying more from Russia and less from West African producers such as Angola and Nigeria, who in turn will sell more cargoes to Europe.

But in the meantime there is still uncertainty over how the cap will work in practice and what tactics Moscow will adopt in response to ongoing Western efforts to punish it for its Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine.



While the Russian supply situation is potentially bullish for prices, the weakening state of the global economy and uncertainty over whether Beijing will successfully stimulate China's economy are bearish.

While there is mounting evidence of slowing global growth, it's still not guaranteed that a worldwide recession is inevitable.

The question is then what is the likely impact of slower growth on oil demand, with a range all the way from not much at all to up to 2 million bpd of lost demand in case of a sharp slowdown.

China's appetite for oil imports has picked up in recent months after a weak start to 2022, but this mainly because Beijing issued more quotas for refined product exports and because two new refineries have started up, rather than any sign of stronger domestic demand.

Stronger economic growth and easing COVID-19 restrictions in China are bullish for crude oil demand, but neither of these is locked in and the outlook is still uncertain.

Lastly, there is still uncertainty about OPEC's output relative to stated targets.

The 10 OPEC members subject to production quotas fell about 801,000 bpd short of the target in November, pumping 25.42 million bpd, according to a Reuters survey.

In theory, this means OPEC could increase production and still meet the target, but in practice this is less likely as the under-production is concentrated in two producers, Angola and Nigeria, and both will likely struggle to pump and sell more oil, even if they want to.

Overall, it's now a waiting game for OPEC+ and the global oil market to see how the various uncertainties pan out in reality.

### New Acid Test for ICC

FROM PAGE 1

The Hague-based court has already opened an investigation into possible war crimes by Israel in both the occupied West Bank and the besieged Gaza Strip. In 2021, the UN documented 2,934 grave violations against 1,208 Palestinian children in occupied Palestine and the Gaza Strip. The UN Human Rights Council, Human Rights Watch, and other international human rights organizations have accused Israel of apartheid in the past two years.



Israel has killed more than 210 Palestinians since the start of 2022 in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, according to the Palestinian Ministry of Health.

So we can see several open files against the Zionists' crimes in the ICC but it has been no serious action from this international body yet and it seems like any other file this one will also be ignored or verdict will be nothing to bother the Zionists.

Local and international rights groups have condemned Israel's excessive use of force and "shoot-to-kill policy" against Palestinians, at a time that mainstream media and Western powers turn a blind eye to the atrocities committed by the Israeli occupation forces on a daily basis.

Many believe Israel will get away with its crimes against Palestinians as long as it enjoys protection and patronage from the United States.

We have not forgotten the killing of Aljazeera journalist Abu Akleh by the Zionist soldiers in the occupied West Bank and so far there has been no serious international action or legal procedure against Israel.

So this time it is an acid test for the ICC as a so-called independent body to launch a probe about this file and have a serious and fair verdict and decision on the case in order to win the trust of the Palestinians and independent and oppressed people.

People in the world will trust the international bodies when they see these bodies are fair and do not bow down to the pressure of the big powers and please them.

The countdown for the result of this file and the verdict has been ticking and the ICC can show the world people whether they can trust on international bodies like the ICC or not because in most cases these bodies have been passive and even their verdicts have been in a way to please all parties, predominantly the big powers. So we can wait and see whether the Palestinians can trust the ICC or they themselves have to take action against the Zionists and continue their intifadha against this fake regime to bring it down and win back the occupied lands.

### Tehran Condemns Use...

FROM PAGE 1

The sanctions, preserved under the Joe Biden administration, have restricted the financial channels necessary to pay for basic goods and medicine, undermining supply chains by limiting the number of suppliers willing to facilitate sales of humanitarian goods to the country.

Ershadi also expressed Tehran's concern about deviation of humanitarian aid and non-humanitarian activities undertaken under "the pretext of the responsibility to protect."

She voiced Iran's concern over the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, Syria, Palestine and Yemen.

She pointed to "the massive influx of displaced Afghans to neighboring countries, particularly Iran," saying as winter approaches and the situation of the Afghan people — especially women, girls and children — continues to worsen.

She stressed that the timely provision of humanitarian aid and release of Afghanistan's frozen assets should in no way be politicized.

### Iranian Oil...

FROM PAGE 1

Including the cargo onboard the Dore, Iran has provided PDVSA with over 26 million barrels of crude oil and condensate so far this year, according to the internal company documents.

In exchange, Venezuela has so far delivered about the same volume to Iran and it plans to ship a 1.9-million-barrel fuel oil cargo onboard another supertanker, the Huge, scheduled to depart from PDVSA's Jose terminal this month, the documents showed.

Iran also is involved in several refining projects in Venezuela aimed at helping PDVSA revive its motor fuel production.

### BP Doubles Down On Hydrogen as Fuel of the Future



LONDON (Dispatches) - BP chief executive Bernard Looney is betting on hydrogen to power future low-carbon businesses as the governments of major economies stump up cash to develop the fuel to decarbonise.

Low-carbon hydrogen already has a big fan-base and is forecast to play a major role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions from heavy industries and some forms of transport.

But it is expensive to produce and often needs government support to compete against fossil fuels.

The United States, for example, is offering large incentives for producing it under President Joe Biden's \$430 billion Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

BP has been quick to react and is in the early planning stages to develop a large, low-carbon hydrogen hub around its Whiting, Indiana refinery, Tomoka McLeod, BP's newly-appointed head of hydrogen in the United States, told Reuters.

When Looney took office nearly three years ago, he pledged to reshape BP and cut carbon emissions by reducing oil and gas output and growing renewables. He is preparing to update investors on Feb. 7 on where things stand.

Hydrogen will have a starring role along with offshore wind, BP company sources told Reuters.

BP has overhauled its structure to create a dedicated hydrogen division led by Felipe Arbelaez which includes 150 staff. It also made several investments in large hydrogen projects, including in Australia, Europe and Britain.

It is also exploring the potential for developing green hydrogen in Oman, the company told Reuters, and is also looking into projects in Mauritania.

BP's spending on low-carbon hydrogen remains modest but is expected to grow into the hundreds of millions by the end of the decade as projects gets under way, the company sources said.

BP spent roughly a quarter of its \$15.5 billion budget in 2022 on low-carbon businesses, when including the \$4.1 billion acquisition of U.S. biogas producer Archaea, according to Reuters calculations.

### Russian Oil Sanctions Fuel Boom for Old Tankers

LONDON (Dispatches) - The market for old oil tankers is booming, and it's all down to efforts by Western nations to curb trade in Russian crude.

As Western shipping and maritime services firms steer clear of Russian oil to avoid falling foul of sanctions or harming their reputations, new companies have leapt into the void, and they're snapping up old tankers that might normally be scrapped. The European Union banned all seaborne Russian crude imports from Dec. 5, with a fuel import ban to follow in February.

It also banned companies and individuals in the bloc from providing financing, brokerage, shipping and insurance services to ship Russian oil elsewhere if the crude was bought above a price cap of \$60 a barrel that came into effect on Monday. In recent months, ageing tankers have been sold by Greek and Norwegian owners for record prices to pop-up Middle Eastern and Asian buyers taking advantage of sky-high charter prices for vessels willing to ship Russian oil to India and China.

Tanker management companies such as Fractal Shipping, run out of Swiss financial hub of Geneva, are reaping the rewards. In less than a year, Fractal has put together a fleet of 23 oil and fuel tankers bought recently by owners in Dubai. Most are taking Russian crude from Baltic and Black Sea ports to Asia, Refinitiv Eikon ship tracking showed.

### Leader Calls for...

FROM PAGE 1

Ayatollah Khamenei highlighted that the most important role and duty of this council is the cultural guidance of the country and society.

Stressing that the cultural guidance of official organizations is different from the cultural guidance of popular organizations, he noted that the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution can pave the way for the formation of public movement in important categories such as the expansion of the culture of avoiding extravagance with the proper guidance of thousands of people that are active in diverse and broad cultural activities.

Referring to his remarks last year in a meeting with the government delegation on the necessity of revolutionary reconstruction of the country's cultural structure, the Supreme Leader noted that the meaning of the structure is the cultural structure of society besides the mentality and culture governing it, and in a word, it means the software on which people act in their individual and social lives.

The Islamic revolution was like a miracle due to the leadership of Imam Khomeini (RA) and people's movement, he said, adding that the revolution changed the political, cultural and social foundations and the false perceptions that were dominating the minds of the people.

Pointing to the culture of "we cannot" as one of the wrong interpretations governing the society before the Islamic Revolution, the Supreme Leader underlined that the revolution gradually changed this mentality through construction and creative movements, resulting in great works such as the construction of dams, power plants, highways, oil and gas industry

equipment as well as many infrastructures by young domestic experts.

Considering the culture of "Westernism" and even the use of foreign words as a false cultural statement dominating the society, Ayatollah Khamenei noted that the Islamic Revolution changed this false statement and turned it into a culture of "revolting against the West."

Citing the change in the culture of "selfishness and fame" to the culture of "sacrifice and selflessness" as an example of the cultural impact of the Islamic Revolution on the personal lives of individuals, noting that despite the change of many false foundations, but various factors over time undermine the active spirit of the revolution, which must be taken seriously so that they do not regain those wrong foundations. With the help of the Revolution's intellectual foundations and active youth, that revolutionary culture and spirit can be revived once again and a huge cultural movement can be created, he pointed out.

Terming the correct cultural engineering as a fundamental task for reforming the cultural structure, Ayatollah Khamenei highlighted that constant vigilance, and accurate knowledge of cultural weaknesses in areas such as society, politics, family, and lifestyle, besides the efforts to achieve wise solutions to eliminate weaknesses and promote correct cultural statements, are among the basic requirements of cultural engineering of the country.

Calling the necessity of scientific progress a dire need, Ayatollah Khamenei emphasized that universities, scientific and research centers should make scientific progress a top priority for themselves.

**Switchboard:**  
(+98) (21) 44253448  
**Public Relations Tel:**  
(+98)(21) 44253450  
Editorial Board: 44253449  
**Public Relations Fax:**  
(+98)(21) 44253395  
**Advertising Department:**  
Tel/Fax:(+98) (21) 44253335-9/44253234  
**Website:**  
http://www.irannewsdaily.com

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

## Hopman Cup to Return Next Year in France

**LONDON (Dispatches)** - The mixed-gender Hopman Cup team tournament will make a return in 2023 after losing its New Year slot on the tennis calendar, the International Tennis Federation (ITF) said on Tuesday, with the next edition to be played in Nice, France from July 19-23. The Nice Lawn Tennis Club will host the event up to 2027 as part of a five-year contract between the ITF and Barcelona-based company Tennium, which operate multiple ATP and WTA tournaments.

## Pele Health Improving Progressively

**SAO PAULO (Dispatches)** - Pele's health is "improving progressively," his doctors said, a week after the 82-year-old Brazilian football legend was hospitalized in Sao Paulo amid ongoing treatment for colon cancer. With the World Cup in full swing in Qatar, fans have been on edge over the health of the footballer considered by many the greatest of all time, who has been in fragile health in recent years.

# Rockets Outlast Sixers In Double OT

**NEW YORK (Dispatches)** - Jalen Green and Kevin Porter Jr. combined for 51 points as the Houston Rockets extended their homecourt winning streak to three games with a 132-123 double-overtime victory over the Philadelphia 76ers. Green paired a team-high 27 points with seven assists while Porter added 24 points and six rebounds. Porter, Eric Gordon (14 points) and Jabari Smith Jr. (16 points, 11 rebounds) nailed 3-pointers in the second overtime to help Houston send the 76ers to their third straight loss. Joel Embiid scored a game-high 39 points, but his late turnover led to a Porter free throw with 2.9 seconds left that forced the second overtime. Embiid fouled out on the play. Tobias Harris added 27 points on 7-of-8 3-point shooting for the 76ers, while James Harden posted 21 points and seven assists in his return from a 14-game absence. Harden missed 15 of 19 shots. When Green completed a three-point play at the 1:48 mark of the fourth, the Rockets led 108-105 only for Harden to bury a 3 at the shot-clock buzzer on the ensuing possession for the 76ers. Houston forced a turnover with three seconds left, but Green missed at the buzzer to force overtime.



Giannis Antetokounmpo had 34 points and 13 rebounds as visiting Milwaukee continued its dominance over Orlando. Bobby Portis added 18 points and 10 rebounds for Milwaukee, which has won 12 straight against the Magic. Jrue Holiday had 17 points, eight rebounds and 10 assists, while rookie AJ Green scored a career-high 12 points off the bench. Franz Wagner scored 25 points to lead Orlando, while Paolo Banchero had 20 points, 12 rebounds and seven assists. Markelle Fultz scored 20 points, and Moritz Wagner tallied 19 points and 12 rebounds.

### Bucks 109, Magic 102

**Clippers 119, Hornets 117**  
Kawhi Leonard's jumper from about 18 feet away broke a tie with 1.4 seconds left and Los Angeles pulled out a victory against host Charlotte in a back-and-forth game.

### Thunder 121, Hawks 114

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 35 points, his seventh straight game of 30-plus points, to lead visiting Oklahoma City to a come-from-behind win over Atlanta. The win was the third straight for the Thunder and ended a three-game losing streak to the Hawks. It also snapped Atlanta's two-game winning streak. Oklahoma City had five others score in double figures, including Josh Giddey, who scored 12 of his 17 points in the fourth quarter, and Ousmane Dieng, who came off the bench to score 15. Atlanta was led by Dejounte Murray's 24 points and Trae Young, who returned after missing Friday's game with a sore shoulder to post 23 points and 10 assists. Bogdan Bogdanovic scored 17 points and Clint Capela added 14 points and 16 rebounds.

## Germany Team Director Bierhoff Leaves Role

**DOHA (Dispatches)** - Germany team director Oliver Bierhoff has become the first casualty of their first-round World Cup exit in Qatar after agreeing to leave his post two years before his contract ends, the DFB said. Former Germany international Bierhoff, who had been in his post as team director for the last 18 years, was widely criticized following their second consecutive shock early exit at a World Cup.

"Oliver Bierhoff has won a lot of merits for the DFB," said DFB President Bernd Neuendorf in a statement. "Even if the last few tournaments lagged behind the sporting goals that had been set, he will be associated with big moments."

Bierhoff played a part in helping Germany win the last of their four World Cup titles in 2014 and Neuendorf said his efforts would not be forgotten.

"He will always be linked with the World Cup success in Brazil," he added. "Even in turbulent times he always followed goals and visions."

Germany crashed out of the tournament in Qatar after losing to Japan, drawing with Spain and beating Costa Rica in the last Group E match. Spain and Japan advanced from that group.

The Germans had also tumbled out of the 2018 World Cup at the same stage - at the time their earliest exit in 80 years.

## Son Apologizes After South Korea's Meek World Cup Exit

**DOHA (Dispatches)** - Son Heung-min apologized after his South Korean side exited the World Cup following a sobering 4-1 defeat to favorites Brazil in the last 16 in Qatar.

The captain and talisman was powerless as Brazil scored four times in the first half on Monday, before Paik Seung-ho netted a 76th-minute consolation for the outclassed Koreans.

South Korea have still never won a World Cup knockout tie outside of their home country.

# Neymar Says Feared for His World Cup After Ankle Injury



**DOHA (Dispatches)** - Brazil striker Neymar said he had feared the World Cup might be over for him after hobbling off in his first match in Qatar with a heavily swollen ankle, making his scoring return in Brazil's 4-1 last-16 win over South Korea all the sweeter. Neymar converted a 13th-minute penalty to make it 2-0 to Brazil against the Asian side in his first appearance for the national team since

his injury against Serbia on November 24. "The night I got injured was very hard for me because I had a thousand things in my head — doubts, fears — but I had the support of my team mates and my family," he told reporters, saying he had cried that evening. "I had to find strength where there wasn't any." He thanked his fans for their messages of support and Brazil's medical team for their work on his recovery, adding he felt no pain in his ankle in Monday's match. Brazil are due to face Croatia in the World Cup quarter-finals on Friday. They beat Japan on penalties earlier on Monday after their last-16 tie finished 1-1.

## Portugal Crush Swiss to Reach World Cup Quarters

**DOHA (Dispatches)** - Goncalo Ramos justified the shock decision to drop Cristiano Ronaldo by scoring a hat-trick on his full debut as Portugal demolished Switzerland 6-1 to power into the World Cup quarter-finals.

The 21-year-old Ramos, who started instead of Ronaldo, became the youngest player to strike three times in a World Cup knockout match since Pele in 1958.

Pepe, Raphael Guerreiro and Rafael Leao were also on target for a rampant Portugal, who booked a showdown with Morocco on Saturday for a place in the last four in Qatar. Ronaldo, 37 and now without a club after his departure from Manchester United, has hogged the headlines during the tournament while looking a shadow of his former self.

The only man to score at five World Cups, Ronaldo was left out by coach Fernando Santos against the Swiss following his angry response to being substituted in the last group game.

But it took just 17 minutes for Ramos to reward Santos' faith, and to achieve something Ronaldo has never done -- score in a World Cup knockout game.

Joao Felix clipped delicately into the feet of Ramos, who quickly swivelled past Fabian Schaer and rifled into the roof of the net past a stunned Yann Sommer.

Otavio, who returned to the Portugal midfield after injury in their opening match, shot straight at Sommer before Ramos did likewise moments later.

Ramos turned in his second from close range six minutes into the second half from Dalot's cross down the right.

He then turned provider by playing in Guerreiro to lash in another just four minutes later as the Swiss defense was ruthlessly ripped apart.

It was also Ramos who inadvertently glanced a corner towards Manuel Akanji at the far post as the Manchester City centre-back pulled one back for Switzerland.

Ramos completed his treble after more outstanding work from Felix, nonchalantly dinking over Sommer with one of his final touches before making way for Ronaldo.



## Morocco Dump Spain Out On Penalties In Historic Win

**DOHA (Dispatches)** - Achraf Hakimi struck the decisive penalty to send Spain crashing out and Morocco into the World Cup quarter-finals for the first time, winning 3-0 in a shoot-out on Tuesday after a 0-0 draw.

Spain coach Luis Enrique had claimed his players prepared by taking 1,000 penalties as homework but Pablo Sarabia, Carlos Soler and Sergio Busquets all missed from the spot and Madrid-born Hakimi dinked his home to the delight of Morocco's raucous support.

Walid Regragui's side will face Portugal or Switzerland in what is uncharted territory for them, with their previous best a last-16 exit in 1986.

Spain had been hoping they could repeat their 2010 World Cup triumph after reaching the semi-finals of Euro 2020, where they were also beaten on penalties by Italy.

The teams were closely matched through a nail-biting clash, with Spain having more of the ball but Morocco creating the better openings, few though they were.

Luis Enrique trialled his third right-back of the tournament in Marcos Llorente, and benched the team's top scorer Alvaro Morata for Marco Asensio, after the shock defeat by Japan.

Spain monopolised the ball, with Morocco's fans furiously whistling with their side out of possession.

With La Roja playing in a pale blue second strip, they resembled the away team on hostile territory.

Gavi, who at 18 years and 123 days old became the youngest player to start a World Cup knockout game since Brazil great Pele in 1958, rose to the occasion.

The Barcelona midfielder was at his most intense, smashing into challenges left, right and centre, even diving to make one with his head.

Morocco goalkeeper Yassine Bounou tipped a Gavi strike on to the crossbar, though it would have been ruled offside, while Asensio drilled into the side-netting, although Spain created little.

Regragui's side sat deep defensively and threatened on the counter, with Unai Simon beating away a long range effort from Noussair Mazraoui.

