

IRAN NEWS Felicitates Its Shiite Readers on the Auspicious Occasion Of Birthday of Imam Ali (AS) Which Is On Saturday. The Next Issue Will Hit The News Stands on Sunday

# IRAN NEWS



VOL. XXVIII, No. 7703 TEHRAN Price 50,000 Rials

www.irannewsdaily.com

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 2, 2023 - BAHMAN 13, 1401

2

## DOMESTIC

Relying on Divine Traditions Secret of Victory of Islamic Revolution



> SEE PAGE 2

3

## DOMESTIC

Turkey Will Definitely Renew Iran Gas Contract

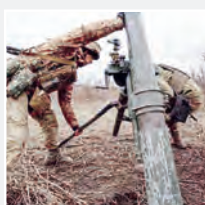


> SEE PAGE 3

4

## INTERNATIONAL

Russia Claims Village On Outskirts of Bakhmut



> SEE PAGE 4

8

## SPORTS

Magic Rally to End Sixers' Win Streak



> SEE PAGE 8

## Riots, Sanctions Two Sides of Same Coin

TEHRAN (PressTV) - President Ebrahim Raisi says Iran's enemies plotted the recent riots across the country out of outrage at the failure of their sanctions in impeding the Islamic Republic's economic and developmental progress.

Raisi made the remarks in a televised interview on Tuesday, calling the foreign-backed riots and the sanctions two sides of the same coin.

The president noted how the sanctions had failed to bring production in the country to a standstill, prevent the country from experiencing five-percent economic progress, and creation of close to one million jobs across the nation.

"Whatever it (the enemy) was after [stifling], has been [contrarily] realized thanks to the nation's will and the government's intention to serve [the people]," Raisi said, adding, "Therefore, it is natural that the enemy should be angry at us."

"One of the reasons [behind the enemy's fomenting] of the recent riots was the very fact that it was witnessing that its sanctions have been neutralized thanks to the efforts of our statesmen and the steadfastness of the people," the chief executive added.

See Page 7

## Iran to Put South Pars 14th Phase Refinery Into Operation

### IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - South Pars Phase 14 refinery will be put into operation in the coming days, Iranian Oil Minister Javad Owji said on the sidelines of the cabinet meeting on Wednesday.

Saying that the project will be opened during the 10-Day Dawn celebrations period, Owji stressed that the Iranian Ministry of Petroleum will inaugurate other big projects by end of the Iranian year (starting from March 21) as well.

"By exploiting this stage, the construction of South Pars refineries will be completed and this will be its last phase," Owji told reporters, adding that the South Pars 14th Phase Refinery will process 56 to 60 million cubic meters of gas per day.

Two petrochemical plants will be put into operation by the end of this year, according to the Iranian oil minister.

Meanwhile on Tuesday Owji said the country's incomes from the sales of oil, natural gas, gas condensate, and petroleum products in the first 10 months of the current Iranian year (March 21, 2022-January 20, 2023) increased by 40 percent compared to the same period last year.

Addressing an open session of the parliament on Tuesday, Oji said that 70 million barrels of gas condensate were exported in the mentioned time span.

See Page 7

## Kurdistan-Based Terrorists Involved in Drone Strike in Isfahan



### IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - A recent report has revealed that anti-Iran terrorists operating in Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region were involved in a recent drone strike on a military workshop in the central Iranian city of Isfahan.

Iran's Nour News, affiliated with the country's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), reported on Wednesday that the terrorists, ordered by a foreign intelligence service, smuggled the constituent parts of a micro aerial vehicle and explosive materials from the Kurdistan region into Iran through far-flung and arduous routes, and handed them over to a liaison in a border city in the northwestern part of the country.

The report added that the drone parts and explosives were then assembled at a modern workshop by a group of specialists and were used in the attack.

In a statement early on Sunday, the Iranian Defense Ministry announced that its air defense units had fended off a drone attack on a military workshop in Isfahan.

The ministry said one of the workshop complexes had come under attack from a number of Micro Aerial Vehicles (MAVs), but the complex's air defenses successfully repelled the attack.

The unsuccessful attack, according to the ministry, did not cause any loss of life and only led to minor damage to the roof of a workshop. The complex, it added, continues its ordinary operations following the attack.

Since September 24 last year, Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has launched several rounds of airstrikes against the positions of the terrorists, who are holed up in Iraqi Kurdistan.

The IRGC has urged the central Iraqi government and authorities in the Kurdistan region to meet their commitments toward Iran and take necessary measures to make the common border between the countries secure.

On November 21, positions of anti-Iran separatist and terrorist groups in northern Iraq came under fresh combined attacks using missiles and kamikaze drones.

The attacks targeted the positions of the notorious so-called Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan (PDKI) and the Komala Party, in the northern Iraqi Kurdistan region, Iran's Arabic-language al-Alam television news network reported at the time.

According to the network, one attack saw four missiles being fired against a PDKI position in the town of Koy Sanjaq in the region's Erbil Province. A separate attack featured kamikaze drones smashing into another site belonging to the group near the Baharka Village elsewhere in the region.

Simultaneously, kamikaze drones struck positions associated with Komala across two locations near the city of Sulaymaniyah in the region.

Sabereen News, a Telegram news channel associated with Iraqi anti-terror Popular Mobilization Units or Hashd al-Sha'abi, said the attacks set off warning sirens at the United States' Consulate in Erbil.

Local Kurdish sources said the attacks had killed as many as 26 members of the terrorist groups.

## Iran, Pakistan Need to Make PTA Effective

ISLAMABAD (Dispatches) - Consul General of Iran Mehran Movahedfar has said that tragic terrorism incident in Pakistan has underlined the need for strengthening relations between the two countries in other fields apart from economic relations.

He was speaking at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry. LCCI President Kashif Anwar, Commercial Head, Consulate of Iran Murteza Forati, Convener LCCI Standing Committee on Pakistan Iran Business Promotion Syed Ali Raza Rizvi also spoke on the occasion. LCCI Executive Committee member were also present on the occasion. The Consul General said that terrorism is a common affliction and it requires joint action to combat it. He said that Iran prefers to develop relations with neighboring countries. Keeping this in mind, we have to determine the size of our relationship for the long term, he said.

He said that Pakistan and Iran have a common border of 900 kilometers. Our capacity requires planning together. He said that both countries can multiply the volume of trade with the cooperation of various institutions and ministries. He said that businessmen of the both sides are not satisfied with the current trade volume. The Consul General said that it is sad to say that despite the cooperation of the two governments regarding barter trade, there has been no improvement. Difficulties are created in operations by the State Bank of Pakistan. Similar difficulties faced by the companies exporting rice from Pakistan, due to which many companies refused to continue cooperation.

He said that Iran has banned Indian rice and now there is a golden opportunity for Pakistani rice exporters. From Pakistan we can import rice, meat to Iran and give LPG and raw materials in return.

See Page 7

## ViewPoint

By: Hamid Reza Naghashian



## Rights Are Not Given, They Are Taken

While the world is focused on Ukraine war and economic issues, Israel continues its crimes and carnage in cold blood against Palestinians and sometimes against other countries and nations while the international bodies get a passive stance and help the fake Israeli regime to shed more blood.

In recent days the Zionist forces have committed horrible crimes in Palestine and only the Islamic Republic of Iran and some Palestinian groups have reacted firmly against the crime while other countries have remained silent and passive and they even have closed their eyes.

A deadly Israeli raid in the occupied West Bank and in Jenin killed 10 Palestinians and it provoked grief and anger in Gaza. Rockets have been fired into Israel, and hundreds of Palestinians have taken part in vigils and rallies to condemn what they describe as a "massacre".

Reacting to this crime, the Islamic Republic of Iran condemned it and said Tehran will continue its support to the Palestinian nation in face of Israeli aggression as Palestine is struggling against the escalating acts of violence committed by Israeli settlers and army under the new extremist far-right cabinet.

Palestinian media outlets reported that Israeli occupation forces raided the Jenin camp early on Thursday, killing 10 and injuring more than 20, leaving residents and popular resistance groups with no choice but to defend themselves and confront the occupation forces.

They said that more than 70 Israeli armed vehicles stormed the flashpoint city and the neighboring refugee camp, while Israeli snipers were deployed on rooftops and heavily armed soldiers opened fire at Palestinian youths who tried to block their way.

Despite such a horrible crime, there was no serious reaction from the international bodies and even from the countries who claim they are supporters of human rights. This passiveness emboldened the Zionist to continue killing Palestinians.

According to reports, a young Palestinian man was killed by Israeli forces during a military raid on the city of al-Khalil in the southern West Bank, bringing the number of Palestinian fatalities from the Israeli violence this month to 35.

The Palestinian health ministry said on Monday that 26-year-old Nasim Nayef Salman Abu Fouda was shot in the head after Israeli troops stationed at the military checkpoint 160, south of the Ibrahimi Mosque, opened fire on his car. He was taken to al-Ahli Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

See Page 7

## Iran Reports Highest Global Growth Rate in Steel Output

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran had the largest growth rate in steel production in the world in 2022, according to latest figures by the World Steel Association (worldsteel).

Worldsteel figures covered in a Tuesday report by the official IRNA news agency showed that Iran's steel production had reached a total of 30.6 million metric tons (mt) last year, up 8% from 2021.

Global steel output dropped by 4.2% year on year in 2022 to reach 1.878 billion mt, showed the figures which also indicated that the global energy crunch and the war in Ukraine had seriously affected steel production in Europe last year.

Major European producers reported cuts to steel output by as much as 19% in 2022 while production in Ukraine contracted by more than 70% over the same period, according to the worldsteel figures.

The figures showed that Iran had remained the 10th largest steel producer in the world last year.

Iran has increasingly relied on hard currency revenues earned from its mining and metals exports since 2018 when the United States imposed sanctions on the country's oil exports.

Iran is now a net exporter of steel with around 7 million mt of annual shipments. It comes nearly a decade after the country reported imports of some 3.5 million mt per year.

Sokhan Gostar Institute

# IRAN NEWS

PRIVATE ENGLISH NEWSPAPER IN IRAN

Advertisement Department

**021-44253335-39**

www.irannewsdaily.com

info@irannewsdaily.com

@irannewsdaily @irannewsdaily



# Hijab Issue Cultural, Needs Cultural Approach

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Minister of Culture says that hijab is a cultural issue that requires a cultural approach to deal with. On the sidelines of the cabinet session on Wednesday, February 1, 2023, Mahdi Esmaeili told reporters that President Raisi believed that the hijab is a cultural and social issue, and there is no other way to address it, but with a cultural and social approach. Esmaili stressed that President Raisi opposed either the political or security approach to the issue of hijab and that if there happened a violation of the Iranian-Islamic dress code in the country, it should be dealt with culturally. The minister also referred to advertisements and stressed that those who advertised their goods on foreign satellite TVs would be dealt with legally.

## Relying on Divine Traditions Secret of Victory of Islamic Revolution

**TEHRAN (IRNA) – Majlis Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf has underlined that the root cause of the triumph of Imam Khomeini and the Iranian people in the 1979 Revolution was their reliance upon divine traditions.**

Speaking on the occasion of the return of Imam Khomeini to Iran in 1979 at the mausoleum of the founding father of the Islamic Republic late Imam Khomeini in suburban Tehran on Wednesday, Qalibaf said that Islam and the dignity of Muslims are growing and that as the Supreme Leader stated the Islamic Revolution would have not been known anywhere in the world without the great name of Imam Khomeini. The speaker noted that the reason that the Islamic Republic is going ahead on the correct path is that Imam Khomeini said the enemies’ pressure on Iran shows the country is on the right track, but when the foes are not afraid of the Iranians it is the time to be scared of. The experiences of 44 years after the victory of the Islamic Revolution showed us that reliance on the divine traditions and the Iranian people would bear fruit, although we are in the middle of our path and have suffered numerous hardships and hostilities, he noted.



As the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei stated on the occasion of this year’s anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Republic, there are three criteria of rationality, spirituality, and justice, which are the foundations of Imam Khomeini’s school of thought, so we should go ahead based on these principles, Qalibaf said. Despite the fact that Shah’s regime was militarily powerful and dependent on the United States, the regime collapsed because Imam Khomeini moved in the path of divine traditions and righteousness, the speaker said.

## Ten-Day Dawn Ceremonies Kicked Off to Mark 44th Anniversary of Islamic Revolution

*IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK*

TEHRAN - Iran has kicked off Ten-Day Dawn celebrations marking the 44th anniversary of the glorious victory of the Islamic Revolution, which put an end to the ruling of the U.S.-backed Pahlavi regime in the country in 1979. The annual nationwide celebrations started all over Iran on Wednesday, coinciding with the date of the homecoming of the late founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeini, after several years of living in exile. The ceremonies began a day after Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei paid tribute to Imam Khomeini at his mausoleum in Tehran. The Leader attended the mausoleum in the early hours of Tuesday and then paid his respects to the graves of martyrs, including those who lost their lives defending the country’s national security. President Ebrahim Raisi also visited the mausoleum, where he renewed his allegiance to the ideals of the Imam and the martyrs of the Islamic Revolution. He also congratulated all the people of Iran on the ten-day Dawn ceremonies, saying it is important that after 44 years, this precious legacy of Imam has survived in spite of all of the hostilities and conspiracies of the enemy. “The Islamic Revolution is rooted in Imam’s sincerity and the truthfulness of this message, speech and invitation,” he said. Every year, Iranians mark the anniversary of their Islamic Revolution from February 1 to 11, known as the Ten-Day Dawn ceremonies. During the celebrations, Iranians take part in different events and activities to mark the occasion. Led by Imam Khomeini, the Islamic Revolution was driven by anti-imperialist sentiments since former Iranian monarch Mohammad Reza Pahlavi was heavily dependent on Western powers, not least the United States. By toppling the Pahlavi regime 44 years ago, the Iranian nation ended 2,500 years of monarchic rule in the country and established a new political system – a republic based on Islamic values and democracy.

## Iran, Iraq Ink 3 Judicial, Legal MoUs

BAGHDAD (IP) - The secretary of the High Council for Human Rights and deputy head of the Iranian judiciary, met with the head of Iraq’s Supreme Judicial Council, the attorney general, the minister of justice, the national security advisor, and the parliamentarians during his trip to Baghdad. On Tuesday evening, Kazem Gharibabadi, in response to the Iran Press about the results of his trip to Baghdad, said during the meetings, several important issues were discussed, including speeding up the handling of the case of the assassination of Lt. General Qassem Soleimani. The secretary of the High Council for Human Rights emphasized that it was decided to start the process of investigation into the case of Martyr Soleimani and his companions in the Iraqi judicial system. The head of the Supreme Judicial Council of Iraq has assured the Iranian side that there is a serious interest in dealing with the assassination of General Soleimani in the Iraqi judicial system and he feels a heavy responsibility in this regard. Gharibabadi also said that there was consultation with the Iraqi officials dealing with the terrorist groups because both countries have suffered a lot from the actions of the terrorist groups and MKO. He also announced the agreement of the two countries to form a joint task force to prosecute terrorist groups in international courts. Gharibabadi stated that this understanding will be finalized in the next two months at most, and then its implementation phase will begin. Gharibabadi added that there was a MoU about the exchange of judicial and legal experiences, management of prisons and dealing with the problems of Iranian and Iraqi prisoners, and in almost two months, about 30 Iranian prisoners in Iraq will be transferred to Iran. During his 3 day visit to Baghdad, the deputy head of the Iranian judiciary consulted with Iraqi judicial and political officials.

## Drone Attack on Isfahan Not to Go Unanswered

TEHRAN (MNA) - Iran will not let the attack on the Defense Ministry’s facility in Isfahan go unanswered, Mahmoud Abbaszadeh Meshkini, the spokesman for the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee of the Iranian parliament. In a statement early on Sunday, the Iranian Defense Ministry announced that its air defense units had fended

off a drone attack on a military workshop in Isfahan. The ministry said one of the workshop complexes had come under attack from a number of Micro Aerial Vehicles (MAVs), but the complex’s air defenses successfully repelled the attack. The ministry underscored that the unsuccessful attack did not cause any loss of life and only led to minor damage to the roof of a workshop. The complex, it added, continues its ordinary operations following the attack. Later, Ukrainian Presidential Adviser Mykhailo Podolyak hinted in a tweet that the recent attack on the Iranian defense facility in Isfahan may be consequence of Tehran’s support for Russia, writing: “[Ukraine] did warn you.” “The attack on Isfahan will not go unanswered,” Meshkini told Sputnik when asked whether Iran will respond to Podolyak’s statement about Kyiv’s alleged involvement in the attack.

The lawmaker added that Kyiv now does not allow itself to make more blatant actions against Iran as it knows what kind of response it will get from Tehran. “They are very afraid. Because we do not joke with anyone,” Meshkini said. “In our opinion, they have said nothing unexpected. It is no surprise to us that the Ukrainian government is taking such a position because it simply has to take a position that is consonant with the hegemony of the West,” the lawmaker said. When asked whose side Tehran could take in a possible conflict with Kyiv, Meshkini said that “the era of Western domination is over;” therefore, Tehran “will definitely not side with the Western world.” Western countries claim that Iran supplies military drones to Russia for its military operation in Ukraine. Moscow and Tehran have repeatedly rejected such allegations.

## Iran to Launch New Radiopharmaceuticals Production Line Soon

TEHRAN (IP) - The head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) says a pilot line for the production of stable isotopes, which is one of the parallel and alternative cases for the production of radiopharmaceuticals, will be launched in the coming days. Answering Iran Press on the sidelines of the cabinet weekly meeting, Mohammad Eslami said Iran is a member of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and it is committed to it. “Iran does not have any obligations that it has not fulfilled, and the statements in this regard are psychological war,” he noted. He added that the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) was a bilateral deal, one side of which is Iran and the other side is the 5+1 group. “When the other side does not fulfill its obligations and does not remove the sanctions, there is no reason for us to adhere to the obligations.” Talking about Iran’s new achievements in the nuclear industry, Eslami noted: “In the Ten-day Dawn occasion, a pilot line for the production of stable isotopes, which is one of the parallel and alternative cases for the production of radiopharmaceuticals and cancer treatment, will be launched.” Regarding Rafael Grossi, Director General of the IAEA’s travel to Tehran, the head of AEOI also stated: “After the secret meeting of the European Council of Ministers, Grossi said that he is coming to Iran.”

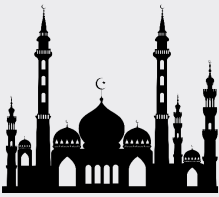
## Iran to Support Efforts To Maintain Security, Stability in Africa

NOUAKCHOTT (IRNA) – Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian says Iran, as a country that is on the frontline of the fight against terrorism, will help efforts aimed at maintaining stability and security in Africa. Amirabdollahian made the comments late on Tuesday after meetings in Mauritania’s capital Nouakchott with President Mohamed Ould Ghazouani and Foreign Minister Mohamed Salem Ould Merzoug. He told reporters that he had some constructive talks with Ould Ghazouani, adding that the two sides had discussed various mutual, regional and international issues during their meeting. The top diplomat appreciated constructive and precious efforts made by the Mauritanian president to fight terrorism and to improve peace and security in the Western Sahara region, saying the Islamic Republic of Iran views those efforts as highly significant. During the meeting, Amirabdollahian also conveyed greetings of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi to Ould Ghazouani. Meanwhile Amirabdollahian, during the second day of his visit to Nouakchott, met and held talks with his Mauritanian counterpart Mohamed Salem Ould. During the meeting, the two top diplomats discussed Iran-Mauritania bilateral relations in various fields of politics, culture, technology, and economy. Amirabdollahian also expressed support for Mauritania’s efforts over establishing peace and stability in the sub-Saharan Africa region. Mohamed Salem Ould Merzoug, for his part, considered Iran-Mauritania relations important and called for developing bilateral ties between the two countries. Supporting Palestine, the cooperation between Islamic countries, as well as the upcoming meeting of OIC foreign ministers in Nouakchott, were other topics discussed by the Iranian and Mauritanian foreign ministers.

## Iran Friendly Country, Important Partner for Armenia

TEHRAN (MNA) – Deputy Prime Minister of Armenia Mher Grigoryan said that Iran is a friendly country and an important partner for Armenia, calling for holding regular interactions between Yerevan and Tehran. Deputy Prime Minister of Armenia Mher Grigoryan and Vice President of Iran Masoud Mir Kazemi co-chaired the session of the monitoring commission of the course of agreements (steering committee) of the 17th session of the Armenian-Iranian Inter-Governmental Joint Commission in Tehran. The prospects of developing trade-economic relations between the two countries, as well as opportunities for enhancing the existing cooperation in energy and transport, were discussed at the session, Grigoryan’s office said in a read-out. Ideas were exchanged around creating favorable conditions for developing and enhancing trade-economic relations, including within the framework of the EEU. A day before the session, Deputy PM Mher Grigoryan and Iranian Vice President Masoud Mir Kazemi held a meeting, Armen Press reported. The deputy ministers of territorial administration and infrastructures, economy, and environment of Armenia participated in separate themed discussions as part of the commission’s meeting to outline the existing problems in the mutually-beneficial directions of the Armenian-Iranian cooperation and to implement joint actions for solving them. At the end of the session, the Deputy PM said that Iran is a friendly country and an important partner for Armenia, and thanked the Iranian side for the warm hospitality and attached importance to holding regular discussions in this format. Deputy PM Grigoryan invited Vice President of Iran Masoud Mir Kazemi to visit Yerevan for holding the next such meeting. Both sides said the governments will focus on solving the recorded issues.





PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)

■ Evening (Maghreb)

■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)

■ Tomorrow's Sunrise

12:18

17:51

05:37

07:02

14. Then We made you heirs in the land after them, to see how ye would behave!

15. But when Our Clear Signs are rehearsed unto them, those who rest not their hope on their meeting with Us, Say: "Bring us a reading other than this, or change this," Say: "It is not for me, of my own accord, to change it: I follow naught but what is revealed unto me: if I were to disobey my Lord, I should myself fear the penalty of a Great Day (to come)."

Surah 10. Jonah (14 - 15)

# Turkey Will Definitely Renew Iran Gas Contract

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

**TEHRAN - Secretary of Iranian Oil, Gas and Petrochemical Products Exporters' Union (OPEX) Hamid Hosseini says if Iraq and Turkey realize that they can supply their required gas for all seasons from other sources, they will definitely go to them but the condition in the region is in a way that there is no replacement for Iran's gas in Iraq market and Turkey due to the rise in its domestic consumption as well as possibility for re-export of gas will definitely renew its gas contract with Iran in 2026.**

Speaking to ILNA and reacting to reports that Iran has stopped gas export to Iraq, Hosseini said that according to the latest statistics released, Iran exports 14m cubic meters of gas per day to Iraq and probably 6 to 7 million cubic meters of the amount goes to Turkey while according to the deal between Iran and Turkey, Iran has to export some 25m cubic meters of gas to Turkey per day.

He added that some 7m cubic meters of gas is also exported to Iraq while in the previous months Iran used to export 50m cubic meters of gas to Iraq per . He noted that according to the export statistics, Iran has exported gas worth of \$3.5m to Iraq, and in the contract with Iraq it has been certainly stipulated that Iran can reduce the amount of gas export to Iraq in the winter, and for this reason we see decline in gas export to Iraq. He noted that in the past two years, Iran's gas export to Iraq has

decreased and Iraqis are unhappy but they understand Iran's condition, too.

Hosseini said that because of these conditions and problems, Iraq and Turkey will definitely replace Iran gas if they can find replacements but the condition in the region is in a way that they have to use Iran gas and Turkey will definitely renew gas imports contract from Iran in 2026.

He added that Iraq owes Iran \$10b and Iraqi Prime Minister has promised to find some mechanism for paying Iran's debts either money or required goods by Iran.

Hosseini said that cooperation with Iran is to the benefit of Iraq, adding that Iran has shown its capabilities in the current condition of Iraq and some power stations on Iraq are working with installation of Iranian turbines and they work even better than their foreign rivals.

He noted that the transformers which had been imported from Turkey and China to be used in Iraq's power plants have broken down and this shows how Iranian-made transformers function well and it shows Iraq's cooperation with Iran will useful for them.

Hossein said that 12-day halt in gas supply by Iran to Iraq due to repair of pipelines has caused fall in electricity production in Iraq.

# Iran, Iraq Keen on Boosting Scientific Cooperation

TEHRAN (MNA) - Iran's Razi University and Martyrs Foundation of Iraq expressed readiness to bolster academic cooperation.

Iran's Razi University hosted a meeting with the personnel of the Martyrs Foundation of Iraq to discuss mutual cooperation.

During the meeting, both sides stressed the need for further cooperation in the sphere of higher education particularly for the families of martyrs.

The two sides referred to the cultural, scientific, geographical, and religious communities that bond the two neighboring states.

The two entities called for taking collective measures for fighting against terrorism.

At the end of the meeting, the two sides prepared the ground for inking the MoU in the area of science and students transferring.

# Bank Loans to Economic Sectors Increase Nearly 42%

TEHRAN (MNA) - Iranian banking system has paid 29.79 quadrillion rials (over \$78.2 billion) of facilities to domestic economic sectors in the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-December 21, 2022), registering a 41.9-percent rise from the same period in the previous year.

According to the Central Bank of Iran (CBI), over 84 percent of the mentioned facilities have been provided to owners of businesses and the rest have been paid to natural persons, IRIB reported.

As reported, 75.3 percent of the total facilities paid to the owners of businesses have been in the form of working capital loans.

During the said period, businesses active in the mining and industry sector received over 6.93 quadrillion rials (about \$18.215 billion) in the form of working capital loans, accounting for 36.8 percent of the total such facilities.

Over the past three years, CBI has been collaborating with the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry for implementing a program based on which bank facilities are provided to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and semi-finished projects.

The mentioned facilities are mainly provided for renewing machinery, equipping production units, or completing semi-finished projects.

# Iran to Invest for Sustainable Development in Afghanistan

**IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK**

TEHRAN – Deputy Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade says Iran intends to invest for sustainable development in Afghanistan and expressed hope Afghanistan would observe Iran's water right.

Speaking in on the sidelines of the forum on reviewing opportunities and trade capacities of Iran and Afghanistan, Mr. Mouhamad Mousavi told reporters that after recent developments and change in establishment in neighboring and brotherly country of Afghanistan, the trade volume has decreased and the bilateral trade between Iran and Afghanistan which had reached \$3b has fallen sharply today.

He added that traders should upgrade their acquaintance with new laws and regulations, adding that the trade volume between Iran and Afghanistan has been \$1.5b in 9 months this year which is promising. He noted that cumbersome regulations and bureaucratic hurdles have been eased and this is a good beginning for boosting exchange with Afghanistan.

Mousavi invited Iranian traders and industrialists to take advantage of this occasion for developing Afghanistan.

He then pointed to signing a new MoU with the new Afghan government, adding that in the future the new details of the MoU will be released, reiterating that gradual elimination of tariffs is the last link of trade agreement of the two and expressed hope the trade with Afghanistan would return to golden days.

Mousavi also expressed hope Afghanistan government would observe Iran's water right from Hirmand River as the talks are underway. He also said that the problem of trucks for entering Afghanistan or exiting this country is gradually resolving, and required agreements have been reached by both sides.

He also announced readiness for cooperation with Afghanistan in different fields like mining or infrastructures.

# Ban on Rice Imports Not Lifted

**IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK**

TEHRAN - Secretary of Iran's Rice Suppliers Commission, Masih Keshavarz, says the agriculture ministry has banned imports of rice since November and it has imported very few amount of rice and it caused chaos in the rice market.

Speaking to ILNA, Keshavarz pointed to the latest development in the rice market and said that the general view of the rice market is repeated every year and some part of people's demand of rice is provided by the domestic product and the other part is provided through imports and choosing the type of the rice depends on the purchasing power of people.

He noted that the fall in the purchasing power of the people has forced them to turn to foreign rice, adding that the private sector has imported about 1.15m tons of rice in 10 months and this amount of rice has been consumed and now the country needs to supply rice for the Nowruz (New Year) holidays and holy month of Ramadhan, and the country needs at least 300,000 tons more of rice to meet the demands.

Keshavarz noted that the domestic rice production is estimated at around 2.4m tons this year and the price of the domestic rice is facing upward trend and it has made people not to show any willing to buy Iranian rice and they are unable to use this product on their tables.

Reacting to the reports that the government has lifted ban on imports of rice, he said that unfortunately this is not true and the ministry has not lifted the ban on imports of the rice.

Meanwhile Head of Association of Rice Sellers if Babol said that because of fall in the purchasing power, even people in north of the country have turned to the foreign rice and they now prefer using good quality Indian and Pakistan rice to Iranian one.

# IMIDRO to Put 29 Mining Projects Into Operation by Late March

TEHRAN (MNA) - Head of the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) Vajihollah Jafari has announced that 29 major projects in mines and mining industries are going to be inaugurated across the country by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20).

According to Jafari, nearly \$445 million has been invested in the mentioned projects in the form of 56.51 trillion rials (about \$148.34 million) of domestic investment in addition to 14.4 million dollars and 258.6 million euros of foreign investment, IRNA reported.

When operational, the mentioned projects are going to create jobs for 2,098 people, Jafari said.

# Third Direct Flight Between Iran and Tajikistan Launched

TEHRAN (IP) - The third direct flight route between Iran and Tajikistan started on January 31 by "Saman Airline" on the Dushanbe-Tehran-Dushanbe.

Iran's Ambassador to Tajikistan, Mohammad Taghi Saberi, announced it on his Instagram page and wrote: According to the schedule announced by Saman Air, the flight will be once a week on Fridays from Dushanbe International Airport to Imam Khomeini International Airport.

Previously, Iran's Vares Airline had launched two weekly direct flights Tehran-Dushanbe-Tehran on Sundays and Mashhad-Dushanbe-Mashhad on Thursdays.

Earlier, Tajik Air and Iran's Aseman airlines used to operate flights between Mashhad and Dushanbe. The flights stopped operating in 2018.

Thus, those intending to travel between Iran and Tajikistan had to use airports of third countries, which

caused higher costs and longer travel time.

Mashhad's Shahid Hasheminejad Airport is Iran's second busiest airport after Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport.

Some 180 flights operate in the airport every day on average, which tends to increase to 250 flights in the peak season.

Also, a flight route from the Iranian capital Tehran to Tajikistan's capital Dushanbe and then to Kyrgyzstan's capital Bishkek was launched on February 3, 2020, by Varesh Airline.

The flight route was Imam Khomeini International Airport in Tehran to Dushanbe and then to Bishkek at 4 a.m. local time on Mondays every week.

The return flight operates on the same day weekly at 1 p.m. local time from Bishkek and at 9:30 a.m. local time from Dushanbe.

# New Bushehr-UAE Shipping Line Became Operational

TEHRAN (IP) - The director-general of Bushehr Province's Ports and Maritime Department said the new Bushehr shipping line to the countries of the Persian Gulf was launched, with a focus on the UAE.

Iran has launched a direct container shipping line from the country's southwestern Bushehr Port to the United Arab Emirates Port of Jebel Ali, the director-general of Bushehr Province's Ports and Maritime Department Mohammad Shakibi-Nasab announced.

During a speech at the signing ceremony of the memorandum of understanding between the Bushehr port operator and UAE company, Mohammad Shakibi-Nasab added in the last ten months, the container department in Bushehr port has grown by nearly 48% compared to the previous period.

According to Mohammad Shakibi-Nasab, launching the mentioned shipping line will boost the economic exchanges between the two countries, IRIB reported.

He further noted that with the new line operation, the cost of transporting export cargoes has also been reduced for the two sides' traders.

Mentioning the province's capacities for expansion of transport ties with neighboring countries, Shakibi-Nasab said the infrastructure in the province's 11 ports has been positively developed over the past few years.

Early in January, the head of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) met with the UAE's ambassador to Tehran, during which the two sides stressed the acceleration of mutual port, maritime, and transit cooperation.

In the meeting, UAE Ambassador Saif Mohamed Obaid Jasem Al Zaabi underlined the capacities of UAE companies for port and maritime investment in neighboring countries, especially Iran, and announced a field visit by his country's experts to Iranian ports soon.

The Arab official also referred to the very good transportation and transit infrastructure in his country and welcomed Iran's approach to developing transit cooperation with CIS countries.

Al Zaabi emphasized the need for the expansion of economic relations between Tehran and Abu Dhabi, expressing the trust and interest of the UAE government in developing port and maritime cooperation with Iran.

PMO Head Ali-Akbar Safaei for his part stressed the strategy of the Iranian government to develop economic cooperation and good relations with neighboring countries, saying that the development of maritime relations between Iran and the United Arab Emirates is crucial for the Islamic Republic.

Stating that Iran is ready to develop maritime, transit, and port relations with Abu Dhabi, Safaei emphasized: "Transit and port connections between Tehran and Abu Dhabi with Central Asian countries and other nations can be formed quickly and prosper very fast."

The official also welcomed any investment by UAE port and maritime companies in Iran's southern ports, especially Shahid Rajaei Port and Chabahar Port.

"Chabahar Port has very good capacities and the private sector of the United Arab Emirates can forge long-term investment contracts in Chabahar port," he said.



## Italy Facing Attacks By Int'l Anarchists

ROME (Dispatches) - Italian embassies all over the world are at risk of anarchist attacks linked to the case of the hunger-striking Alfredo Cospito, Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani said.

Cospito, 55, is an Italian anarchist who has been on a hunger strike for more than 100 days to protest against being jailed under the strict "41 bis" isolation regime. "We are raising security in all of our embassies and consulates because at the moment international anarchists are mobilized against the Italian state," Tajani told a news conference in Rome.

In December, a Greek anarchist group claimed responsibility for an arson attack outside an Italian diplomat's home, calling it an act of solidarity with Cospito.



## U.S. Hits Myanmar With New Sanctions

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - The United States slapped fresh sanctions on Myanmar, a day before the Southeast Asian country marks the second anniversary of a military coup that launched a violent campaign against democracy activists.

The U.S. Treasury placed sanctions on Myanmar Energy Minister Myo Myint Oo and the top two officials of the state-owned Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise.

It also placed sanctions on Myanmar Air Force chief Htun Aung; Hla Swe, a former military official that the Treasury said provides arms to pro-regime militias; and Htoo Htwe Tay Za, daughter of Tay Za, a businessman whose large Htoo Group works closely with the Myanmar military.



## Russia Claims Village On Outskirts of Bakhmut



KYIV (Dispatches) - Russia claimed to have captured a village on the northern outskirts of the city of Bakhmut, which it is attempting to surround in a big push for what would be its biggest prize in Ukraine since last summer.

There was no immediate response from Kyiv to Moscow's claim about the village of Blahodatne, and Reuters was not immediately able to verify the situation there. It came three days after the head of Russia's Wagner Group said the mercenary force had seized the village in an attack Kyiv said it had repelled.

The village, which sits on one of the main roads into Bakhmut, about 5 km (3 miles) north, was captured with the help of aerial support, Moscow's defense ministry said in a statement.

Moscow has made clear, if gradual, advances in the area in recent weeks, notably capturing the salt-mining town of Soledar to Bakhmut's north.

Were it to force Ukraine to withdraw from the city that once held 75,000 people, it would be Moscow's first big prize since it took the similarly-sized cities of Sievierodonetsk and Lysychansk in July.

During the fighting for Bakhmut, two civilians, a boy and a 70-year-old-man, were killed in a Russian artillery attack on Tuesday, regional governor Pavlo Kyrylenko said. Four others were wounded in the attack, he said.

Separately, a large Russian force has launched an assault against the Ukrainian-held bastion of Vuhledar this week, further south along the same eastern front. Russian officials have claimed to have gained a foothold there, while Kyiv says it has largely repelled that attack so far.

Britain's Ministry of Defense said the Russian force in the new Vuhledar assault was at least the size of a brigade, a unit typically comprising several thousand troops.

The Russians had advanced hundreds of metres across a river toward Vuhledar and could make more localised gains there, the ministry said in an unusually detailed daily intelligence update. It said the assault on Vuhledar was unlikely to lead to a significant breakthrough, but could be intended to draw Ukrainian effort away from defending Bakhmut.

Despite weeks of intense trench warfare that both sides have compared to a meat grinder, frontlines in eastern Ukraine had largely been frozen in place since November after Kyiv recaptured swathes of territory in the second half of 2022.

But momentum has lately swung back towards Russia, making substantial gains for the first time since the middle of last year. Military experts say Moscow appears determined to push forward in the coming months before Kyiv receives hundreds of newly pledged Western tanks and armoured vehicles for a counter-attack to recapture occupied territory this year.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy described Russia's assault in the east as an attempt to exact "revenge" for earlier losses.

"And I think that they will not be able to provide their society with any convincing positive result in the offensive. I am confident in our army. We will stop them all, little by little, destroy them and prepare our big counteroffensive," he said on Monday.

Kyiv says the Russian assaults of recent weeks have come at huge cost, initially mostly relying on Wagner mercenaries, including thousands of convicts recruited from Russian prisons and sent into battle in waves with little training or equipment.

But Russia's call-up of hundreds of thousands of reservists late last year means Moscow has now been able to reconstitute regular military units exhausted or depleted earlier in the war.

## France Hit by New Wave of Strikes Against Pension Reform

PARIS (Dispatches) - Striking workers disrupted French refinery deliveries, public transport and schools in a second day of nationwide protests over President Emmanuel Macron's plan to make people work longer before retirement.

Huge crowds marched through cities across France to denounce a reform that raises the retirement age by two years to 64 and poses a test of Macron's ability to push through change now that he has lost his working majority in parliament.

On the rail networks, only one in three high-speed TGV trains were operating and even fewer local and regional trains. Services on the Paris metro were thrown into disarray.

Marching behind banners reading "No to the reform" or "We won't give up," many said they would take to the streets as often as needed for the government to back down.

"We won't drive until we're 64!" bus driver Isabelle Texier said at a protest in Saint-Nazaire on the Atlantic coast.

"For the president, it's easy. He sits in a chair ..., he can work until he's 70, even," she said. "We can't ask roof layers to work until 64, it's not possible."

After Jan. 19, when more than a million people took to the streets on the first nationwide strike day, unions said initial data from protests across the country showed a bigger turnout.

"It's better than on the 19th ... It's a real message sent to the government, saying we don't want the 64 years," Laurent Berger, who leads CFDT, France's largest union, said ahead of the Paris march.

Opinion polls show a substantial majority of the French oppose the reform, but Macron intends to stand his ground. The reform is "vital" to ensuring the viability of the pension system, he said on Monday.

Some felt resigned amid bargaining between Macron's ruling alliance and conservative opponents who are more open to pension reform than the left.

"There's no point in going on strike. This bill will be adopted in any case," said 34-year-old Matthieu Jacquot, who works in the luxury sector.



## Corruption Rife Across Latin America

SAO PAULO (Dispatches) - Guatemala, Nicaragua and Cuba reached all-time lows on Transparency International's corruption index released due to increased organized crime by public institutions, co-optation by political and economic elites and increased human rights abuses.

"Weak governments fail to stop criminal networks, social conflict, and violence, and some exacerbate threats to human rights by concentrating power in the name of tackling insecurity," said Delia Ferreira Rubio, head of Transparency International, a Berlin-based anti-corruption group.

Transparency International's annual Corruption Perceptions Index ranks countries by their perceived levels of public sector corruption on a scale of zero (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). The average for the Americas stands at 43.

In Latin America, Nicaragua and Venezuela are the lowest ranked as each struggles with public institutions infiltrated by criminal networks, the report notes.

The governments of Guatemala, Venezuela, Brazil, Cuba and Peru did not immediately reply to requests for comment on the report.

Guatemala has seen state institutions co-opted by political and economic elites and organized crime, the report said.

Over the past year, Guatemalan President Alejandro Giammattei has faced a growing chorus of critics claiming he has slammed the brakes on anti-corruption efforts, as well as forced some judges and prosecutors to flee the country, the main reasons for the country's decline in the index.

Repression of the political opposition, human rights abuses and cracking down on freedom of speech is what lowered Nicaragua's ranking, while Cuba

has a historic low due to the "ongoing repression" and the "absolute lack of any kind of freedom in the country," one of Transparency International's researchers told Reuters.

## NATO, Japan Pledge to Strengthen Ties in Face of Historic Security Threat

TOKYO (Dispatches) - NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg and Japanese premier Fumio Kishida pledged to strengthen ties, saying Russia's invasion of Ukraine and its growing military cooperation with China had created the most tense security environment since World War Two.

The comments came in a statement issued during Stoltenberg's trip to Japan following a visit to South Korea on which he urged Seoul to increase military support to Ukraine and gave similar warnings about rising tension with China.

"The world is at a historical inflection point in the most severe and complex security environment since the end of World War II," the two leaders said in the statement.

It also raised concerns about Russia's nuclear threats, joint military drills between Russia and China near Japan, and North Korea's development of nuclear weapons.

Stoltenberg told reporters a Russian victory in Ukraine would embolden China at a time when it is building up its military, "bullying its neighbours and threatening Taiwan".

He added, "This war is not just a European crisis, but the challenge to the world order.

"Beijing is watching closely, and learning lessons that may influence its future decisions. What is happening in Europe today could happen in East Asia tomorrow."

China's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Stoltenberg's latest remarks.

Responding to similar comments Stoltenberg made during his Seoul visit, China on Monday said it was a

partner to countries, not a challenge, and that it did not threaten any nation's interests or security.

While the North Atlantic Treaty Organization groups 30 countries in Europe and North America, Stoltenberg has said its members are affected by global threats.

Kishida and South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol became the first leaders from their countries to attend a NATO summit last year, joining as observers.

China has previously criticized NATO's efforts to expand its alliances in Asia. Russia, which calls its invasion of Ukraine a "special operation", has repeatedly cast NATO's expansion as a threat to its security.

In December, Japan unveiled sweeping plans to beef up its defense capabilities, changes once unthinkable for a pacifist country that will make it the third-biggest military spender after the United States and China.

Bolstering its cooperation with NATO in areas from maritime security and arms control to cyberspace and disinformation will further help to respond to the changing strategic environment, the statement added.

The meeting comes as Japan prepares to host the annual Group of Seven (G7) summit in May, when Russia's invasion of Ukraine is expected to be a major topic of discussion.

Kishida is considering visiting Kyiv in February to reinforce his support for Ukraine in the conflict, domestic media have said.



## UK Gov't Facing High Court Battle Over Arms Sales to Saudi Arabia



LONDON (Dispatches) - The United Kingdom's High Court began hearing the case brought forward by the Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT), which says arms exports have contributed to the deaths of thousands of civilians.

The UK-based group is challenging the lawfulness of a decision taken by the British government in 2020 to continue supplying weapons to the Saudi-led coalition involved in the nine-year-old conflict in Yemen.

It marks the latest development in a long-running battle over the legality of the exports, which CAAT says have made the UK more than 23 billion pounds (\$28bn) since the war began.

CAAT won a similar fight in 2019, when Court of Appeal judges said continuing to license military equipment that could be used in the war in Yemen for export was unlawful amid concerns they may have been used to commit war crimes.

The government temporarily halted sales following the ruling. UK law does not allow for the export of weapons if there is a "clear risk" they may be used to carry out war crimes.

However, exports resumed in mid-2020 under the order of then-trade minister Liz Truss after a governmental review.

The review concluded that possible violations of international humanitarian law by actors using UK-supplied weapons were only "isolated incidents".

British arms sales to Saudi Arabia have continued in recent years, despite the UK's leading ally, the United States adopting a partial ban on weapons exports to the kingdom because of the war in Yemen.

Meanwhile, campaigners and rights groups have disputed the validity of the governmental review's findings.

"The ample evidence of laws of war violations by the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen throughout the war make clear that these violations are not simply 'isolated incidents' as claimed by the UK government," Niku Jafarnia, Yemen and Bahrain researcher at Human Rights Watch, said.

"UK weapons have been used in some of these violations with total impunity," Jafarnia said.



## Green Comet Zooming Our Way, Last Visited 50,000 Years Ago

CAPE CANAVERAL (Dispatches) - A comet is streaking back our way after 50,000 years.

The dirty snowball last visited during Neanderthal times, according to NASA. It will come within 26 million miles (42 million kilometers) of Earth Wednesday before speeding away again, unlikely to return for millions of years.

So do look up, contrary to the title of the killer-comet movie "Don't Look Up."

Discovered less than a year ago, this harmless green comet already is visible in the northern night sky with binoculars and small telescopes, and possibly the naked eye in the darkest corners of the Northern Hemisphere. It's expected to brighten as it draws closer and rises higher over the horizon through the end of January, best seen in the predawn hours. By Feb. 10, it will be near Mars, a good landmark.

Skygazers in the Southern Hemisphere will have to wait until next month for a glimpse.

While plenty of comets have graced the sky over the past year, "this one seems probably a little bit bigger and therefore a little bit brighter and it's coming a little bit closer to the Earth's orbit," said NASA's comet and asteroid-tracking guru, Paul Chodas.

Green from all the carbon in the gas cloud, or coma, surrounding the nucleus, this long-period comet was discovered last March by astronomers using the Zwicky Transient Facility, a wide field camera at Caltech's Palomar Observatory. That explains its official, cumbersome name: comet C/2022 E3 (ZTF).

Today, it will hurtle between the orbits of Earth and Mars at a relative speed of 128,500 mph (207,000 kilometers). Its nucleus is thought to be about a mile (1.6 kilometers) across, with its tails extending millions of miles (kilometers).

The comet isn't expected to be nearly as bright as Neowise in 2020, or Hale-Bopp and Hyakutake in the mid to late 1990s.

But "it will be bright by virtue of its close Earth passage ... which allows scientists to do more experiments and the public to be able to see a beautiful comet," University of Hawaii astronomer Karen Meech said in an email.

Scientists are confident in their orbital calculations putting the comet's last swing through the solar system's planetary neighborhood at 50,000 years ago. But they don't know how close it came to Earth or whether it was even visible to the Neanderthals, said Chodas, director of the Center for Near Earth Object Studies at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California.

When it returns, though, is tougher to judge.

Every time the comet skirts the sun and planets, their gravitational tugs alter the iceball's path ever so slightly, leading to major course changes over time. Another wild card: jets of dust and gas streaming off the comet as it heats up near the sun.

"We don't really know exactly how much they are pushing this comet around," Chodas said.

The comet — a time capsule from the emerging solar system 4.5 billion years ago — came from what's known as the Oort Cloud well beyond Pluto. This deep-freeze haven for comets is believed to stretch more than one-quarter of the way to the next star.

While comet ZTF originated in our solar system, we can't be sure it will stay there, Chodas said. If it gets booted out of the solar system, it will never return, he added.

Don't fret if you miss it.

"In the comet business, you just wait for the next one because there are dozens of these," Chodas said. "And the next one might be bigger, might be brighter, might be closer."



## Dolphins, Humans Both Benefit From Fishing Collaboration

LONDON (Dispatches) - Accounts of people and dolphins working together to hunt fish go back millennia, from the time of the Roman Empire near what is now southern France to 19th century Queensland, Australia. But while historians and storytellers have recounted the human point of view, it's been impossible to confirm how the dolphins have benefited — or if they've been taken advantage of — before sonar and underwater microphones could track them underwater.

In the seaside city of Laguna, scientists have, for the first time, used drones, underwater sound recordings and other tools to document how local people and dolphins coordinate actions and benefit from each other's labor. The most successful humans and dolphins are skilled at reading each other's body language. The research was published Monday in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The Laguna residents work with wild bottlenose dolphins to catch schools of migratory silver fish called mullet. It's a locally famous alliance that has been recorded in newspaper records going back 150 years.

"This study clearly shows that both dolphins and humans are paying attention to each other's behavior, and that dolphins provide a cue to when the nets should be cast," said Stephanie King, a biologist who studies dolphin communication at the University of Bristol and was not involved in the research.

"This is really incredible cooperative behavior," she added. "By working with the dolphins," the people catch more fish, "and the dolphins are more successful in foraging, too."

Dolphins and humans are both highly intelligent and long-lived social animals. But when it comes to fishing, they have different abilities.

"The water is really murky here, so the people can't see the schools of fish. But the dolphins use sounds to find them, by emitting small clicks," much as bats use echolocation, said Mauricio Cantor, an Oregon State University marine biologist and study co-author.

As the dolphins herd the fish toward the coast, the people run into the water holding hand nets.

"They wait for dolphins to signal exactly where fish are — the most common signal is what locals call 'a jump,' or a sudden deep dive," said Cantor, who is also affiliated with the Federal University of Santa Catarina in Florianópolis, Brazil.

The researchers used sonar and underwater microphones to track the positions of the dolphins and fish, while drones recorded the interactions from above, and GPS devices attached to residents' wrists recorded when they cast their nets.

The more closely the people synchronized their net-casting to the dolphins' signals, the more likely they were to trap a large catch.

So what's in it for the dolphins?

The descending nets startle the fish, which break into smaller schools that are easier for dolphins to hunt. "The dolphins may also take one or two fish from the net — sometimes fishers can feel dolphin tugging a little on the net," said Cantor.

The Laguna residents categorize the individual dolphins as "good," "bad," or "lazy" — based on their skill in hunting and affinity for cooperating with humans, said Cantor. The people get most excited when they see a "good" dolphin approaching shore.

"These dolphins and humans have developed a joint foraging culture that allows them both to do better," said Boris Worm, a marine ecologist at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Canada, who was not involved in the research.



**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





## Russian Rouble Hits More Than 3-Week Low

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - The rouble slipped to a more than three-week low near 71 against the dollar, as the Russian currency traded after a favourable month-end tax period and foreign currency interventions offered only limited support.

The rouble was 0.1 per cent stronger against the dollar at 70.33, after hitting 70.83 in early trade, its weakest mark since Jan. 9. It had gained 0.4 per cent to trade at 76.30 versus the euro and had shed 0.2 per cent against the yuan to 10.43.

With payments made on Jan. 30, the rouble has now lost support from month-end taxes, when exporters convert foreign exchange revenue to pay local liabilities.



## IMF Lifts 2023 Growth Forecast On China Reopening

SINGAPORE (Dispatches) - The International Monetary Fund (IMF) today raised its 2023 global growth outlook slightly due to "surprisingly resilient" demand in the United States and Europe, an easing of energy costs and the reopening of China's economy after Beijing abandoned its strict Covid-19 restrictions.

The IMF said global growth would still fall to 2.9 per cent in 2023 from 3.4 per cent in 2022, but its latest World Economic Outlook forecasts mark an improvement over an October prediction of 2.7 per cent growth this year with warnings that the world could easily tip into recession.

For 2024, the IMF said global growth would accelerate slightly to 3.1 per cent, but this is a tenth of a percentage point below the October forecast as the full impact of steeper central bank interest rate hikes slows demand.

IMF chief economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas said recession risks had subsided and central banks are making progress in controlling inflation, but more work was needed to curb prices and new disruptions could come from further escalation of the war in Ukraine and China's battle against Covid-19.

"We have to sort of be prepared to expect the unexpected, but it could well represent a turning point, with growth bottoming out and then inflation declining," Gourinchas told reporters of the 2023 outlook.

In its 2023 GDP forecasts, the IMF said it now expected US GDP growth of 1.4 per cent, up from 1.0 per cent predicted in October and following 2.0 per cent growth in 2022. It cited stronger-than-expected consumption and investment in the third quarter of 2022, a robust labour market and strong consumer balance sheets.

It said the euro zone had made similar gains, with 2023 growth for the bloc now forecast at 0.7 per cent, versus 0.5 per cent in the October outlook, following 3.5 per cent growth in 2022. The IMF said Europe had adapted to higher energy costs more quickly than expected, and an easing of energy prices had helped the region.

Britain was the only major advanced economy the IMF predicted to be in recession this year, with a 0.6 per cent fall in GDP as households struggle with rising living costs, including for energy and mortgages.

The IMF revised China's growth outlook sharply higher for 2023, to 5.2 per cent from 4.4 per cent in the October forecast after "zero-Covid" lockdown policies in 2022 slashed China's growth rate to 3.0 per cent — a pace below the global average for the first time in more than 40 years. But the boost from renewed mobility for Chinese people will be short-lived.

The Fund added that China's growth will "fall to 4.5 per cent in 2024 before settling at below 4 per cent over the medium term amid declining business dynamism and slow progress on structural reforms."

At the same time, India's outlook remains robust, with unchanged forecasts for a dip in 2023 growth to 6.1 per cent but a rebound to 6.8 per cent in 2024, matching its 2022 performance. Gourinchas said together, the two Asian powerhouse economies will supply over 50 per cent of global growth in 2023.

## IMF Slashes UK Growth Outlook

LONDON (Dispatches) - Britain is the only Group of Seven nation to have suffered a cut to its 2023 economic growth outlook in International Monetary Fund forecasts published today, adding to pressure on finance minister Jeremy Hunt to come up with a growth plan.

Britain's flagging economy now looks set to shrink by 0.6 per cent this year, a sharp downgrade from previously expected growth of 0.3 per cent in the IMF's last forecast in October.

All other G7 economies are predicted to grow this year, mostly at a stronger pace than the IMF forecast three months ago.

The IMF said Britain would struggle with a combination of factors including higher taxes announced by Hunt late last year as he tried to restore the confidence of investors after September's "mini-budget" of former prime minister Liz Truss.

Britain had also been hit particularly hard by the surge in gas prices after Russia's invasion of Ukraine as it relied on gas for much of its power generation, and it faced a shortage of workers too that was holding back the economy, the IMF said.

The Bank of England's sharp increase of interest rates to try to stamp out the risks from a jump in inflation would take its toll as well. "All these factors taken together lead to a fairly sharp retrenchment of activity in 2023," Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas, the IMF's chief economist, told reporters.

By contrast, Britain is expected to have registered one of the highest growth rates in 2022 among European countries at 4.1 per cent, Gourinchas said.

Petya Koeva-Brooks, deputy director of the IMF's research department, said Britain had a higher share of share of variable rate mortgages than countries such as the United States.

"So again, the transmission of monetary policy is much more immediate and quick," she said.

Britain is the only economy in the G7 not to have recovered its pre-pandemic size with Brexit widely seen as unique drag among its peers.

Responding to the IMF report, Hunt said nearly all advanced economies were facing headwinds, and that past forecasts from a range of bodies including the IMF had proven too gloomy about Britain's prospects. "Short-term challenges should not obscure our long-term prospects," he said. Hunt is due to announce measures that he hopes will speed up growth in a budget statement on March 15. Several senior members of the ruling Conservative Party want him to cut taxes immediately.



## China Factory Output Rebounds on Zero-Covid Relaxation

BEIJING (Dispatches) - China's factory activity expanded in January after months of contraction, official data showed, as the world's second-largest economy stirs back to life after Beijing ended strict Covid curbs.

The Asian giant posted just three per cent growth last year as its economy was hammered by stringent lockdowns and a deepening crisis in the key property sector.

But it is now showing signs of a rebound, with a key gauge of factory output rising this month and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) upgrading its 2023 growth forecast to 5.2 per cent.

Pandemic prevention measures have "entered a new stage" that is allowing "a gradual return" to normal life, National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) statistician Zhao Qinghe said in a statement.

He added that the official manufacturing purchasing managers' index (PMI) rose to 50.1 this month, from 47.0 in December — the first time since September the index has been above the 50 point mark that indicates growth.

The non-manufacturing PMI, which includes the services and construction sector, rose to 54.4 in January, well above the 52 points forecast by economists surveyed by Bloomberg.

Authorities have said the soaring virus case numbers that accompanied China's reopening have now passed their peak, with a travel surge prompted by the country's biggest Lunar New Year holiday in years offering a much-needed boost to business.

"The official PMIs add to evidence of a rapid rebound in economic activity this month as disruption from the reopening wave faded," Sheana Yue, China economist at Capital Economics, said in a note.

## Pakistan's Economy in Collapse as IMF Visits

ISLAMABAD (Dispatches) - Pakistan is gripped by a major economic crisis, with the rupee plummeting, inflation soaring and energy in short supply as International Monetary Fund officials visit to discuss a vital cash injection.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for months held out against the tax rises and subsidy slashing demanded by the IMF, fearful of backlash ahead of elections due in October.

But in recent days, with the prospect of national bankruptcy looming and no friendly countries willing to offer less painful bailouts, Islamabad has started to bow to pressure.

The government loosened controls on the rupee to rein in a rampant black market in US dollars, a step that caused the currency to plunge to a record low. Artificially cheap petrol prices have also been hiked.

"We're at the end of the road. The government has to make the political case to the public for meeting these (IMF) demands," former World Bank economist Abid Hasan told AFP.

Time is of the essence, with Nasir Iqbal from the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics warning the economy had already "virtually collapsed" due to mismanagement and political turmoil.

The IMF delegation arrived on Tuesday to a nation in panic.

The world's fifth-biggest population has less than \$3.7 billion in the state bank -- enough to cover just three weeks of imports.

It is no longer issuing letters of credit, except for essential food and medicines, causing a backlog of thousands of shipping containers at Karachi port stuffed with stock the country can no longer afford.

Industry has been hammered by the imports block and massive rupee devaluation. Public construction projects have halted, textiles factories have partially shut down and domestic investment has slowed.

In downtown Karachi, dozens of day laborers including carpenters and painters wait with their tools on display for work that never comes.

"The number of beggars has increased and the number of laborers has decreased," said 55-year-old mason Zafar Iqbal, who was eating biryani from a plastic bag donated by a passerby.

"Inflation is so high that one cannot earn enough." At the petrol pump, a widow with her son said every few hundred rupees (75 cents) of fuel for their motorcycle was precious, with the pair only eating two meals a day.

## Eurozone Dodges Recession But Gloomy Outlook Persists

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) - The eurozone economy showed greater resilience than expected after avoiding a recession in the fourth quarter of 2022, official data showed Tuesday, but the outlook remained gloomy as soaring prices dampen growth.

The single currency area's economy recorded weak-but-positive growth of 0.1 per cent in the final three months of 2022, the EU's statistics agency, Eurostat, said.

The figure is lower than the 0.3 per cent growth recorded in the third quarter of 2022, but better than forecasts of a contraction by economists.

"Good news: the euro area avoided a contraction in the last quarter of 2022," the EU's economy commissioner Paolo Gentiloni said on Twitter.

"We continue to face multiple challenges but the outlook for this year looks a little brighter today than in the autumn," he added.

The data will be welcome after fears of a deep recession following Russia's war in Ukraine, which unleashed sky-high energy prices and stoked inflation to record levels.

But people's purchasing power remains lower than before the war as fuel bills eat into household spending and push European businesses to the brink.

The economy has been helped by a mild winter, reducing the use of gas and electricity, while China's recent reopening and improved supply chains also provided support.

Economists acknowledged the worst was avoided but warned against celebrating too early.

"The worst scenarios for this winter have been avoided, but the economy remains sluggish" even if it did show "incredible resilience", according to ING's senior eurozone economist, Bert Colijn.

Andrew Kenningham, chief Europe economist at Capital Economics, was more pessimistic, predicting a recession in the first half of the year.

He pointed to the intensifying effects of the European Central Bank's monetary policy tightening as well as households struggling with the cost of living crisis and "sluggish" external demand.

The ECB is set to continue raising interest rates with a fresh hike on Thursday.

Eurostat also said the single currency area's economy grew by 3.5 per cent in 2022 -- higher than China's at 3.0 per cent and the United States at 2.1 per cent.

The figure for the eurozone is better than the European Commission's forecast in November of 3.2 per cent.

The economy of the 27-nation EU as a whole, including the countries using the euro, grew by 3.6 per cent in 2022.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) predicted the EU's single currency area would grow in 2023 by 0.7 per cent.

## Green Energy Investment Tops \$1 Trillion



PARIS (Dispatches) - Investment in cleaner energy is on the verge of overtaking spending on fossil fuels for the first time ever after exceeding \$1 trillion last year, a report on Tuesday said.

Despite the milestone, spending on energy transition technology must immediately triple to meet the target of net-zero emissions by 2050 to combat climate change, according to research group BloombergNEF.

Investment in sectors such as renewables, nuclear, zero-emission vehicles or recycling projects totalled \$1.1 trillion last year, matching spending on fossil fuels, the report found.

This is up 31 per cent on the previous year, and marks the first time the investment total has been measured in trillions.

The increase was driven by the energy crisis that followed Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the report said.

"Investment in clean energy technologies is on the brink of overtaking fossil fuel investments, and won't look back," said Albert Cheung, head of global analysis at BloombergNEF.

China -- the world's biggest polluter -- was by far the largest investor in energy transition, with the United States a distant second.

Nearly half of the total global investment was in China, particularly in steel recycling and the renewable energy and electric vehicles sectors.

Germany has retained its place in third position, largely due to a sizable EV market.

But a drop in offshore wind deals saw investment in Britain fall by nearly a fifth, the report found.

Globally, renewable energy was the biggest sector for investment at \$495 billion, followed by electrified transport projects.

With the exception of nuclear power, the researchers said all other sectors saw record levels of investment.

The growth in energy transition technology also comes as many countries saw an increase in fossil fuel investment in a bid to shore up energy security.

The war in Ukraine caused disruption to the global power supply as Russia, a major producer of fossil fuels, cut gas supplies to Europe Union countries and was hit by sweeping sanctions over the invasion.



## Turkey Welcomes Decision for Iran To Join Damascus-Ankara Talks

TEHRAN (MNA) – Turkey welcomes the decision for Iran to join the talks to improve relations between Ankara and Damascus, which are held with Moscow’s mediation, Ibrahim Kalin, the spokesman for the Turkish president, said.

“We are pleased that Iran is joining this process. Iran is an important side. I think it will be able to contribute to this process,” he said in

comments broadcast by the TRT television channel.

“The participation of Iran in the negotiating process, which is held with the mediation of Russia, will make it easier. As part of this process, we are talking about ensuring the security of our borders, the neutralization of the terrorist threat with respect to our country, the return of Syrian refugees, a worthy and safe return,” Kalin continued.



# Three Years on, Britain Still Waits for Brexit Dividend

LONDON (Dispatches) - Three years after its departure from the European Union, Britain is yet to benefit from the Brexit dividend that was promised for its economy as it lags its peers on multiple fronts, including trade and investment.

Britain exited the EU on Jan. 31, 2020, though remained in the bloc’s single market and customs union for 11 more months.

On that day, then-Prime Minister Boris Johnson said the country could finally fulfil its potential and that he hoped it would grow in confidence with each passing month.

So far, the opposite has happened, with a range of indicators showing under-performance compared with other economies.

Opinion polls show Britons who regret leaving the EU increasingly outnumber those who do not. A survey published on Monday by news website UnHerd showed this was now the case in all but three of 632 parliamentary constituencies surveyed.

The government, led by Brexit-supporting Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, says Britain is prospering with new-found freedoms.

Last week, finance minister Jeremy Hunt challenged the talk of decline and said Brexit offered a brighter future with room for measures that will attract investment in areas such as the green economy and tech.

Many economists say leaving the EU is not the sole cause of Britain’s woes - the country was hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic - but it is a factor that can help explain recent underperformance.

“It’s been more than a slow burn. It’s been a serious reduction in economic performance,” said John Springford, deputy director at the Centre for European Reform think tank.

“If you impose barriers to trade, investment and migration with your biggest trading partner (EU), then you’re going have quite a big hit to trade volumes, and to investment and to GDP,” he said, pointing to a string of dismal economic data.

Britain was the only Group of Seven advanced economy yet to regain its pre-pandemic size of late 2019 at the end of September last year, the most recent period covered by data.

Springford estimated that Brexit reduced Britain’s economic output - compared with what it would have been without leaving the EU - by around 5.5% as of mid-2022, based on a “doppelganger” model in which an algorithm selects countries whose economic performance closely matched pre-Brexit Britain.

The government’s own forecasting organisation, the Office for Budget Responsibility, and the Bank of England also judge there to be a long-running net cost to leaving the EU.

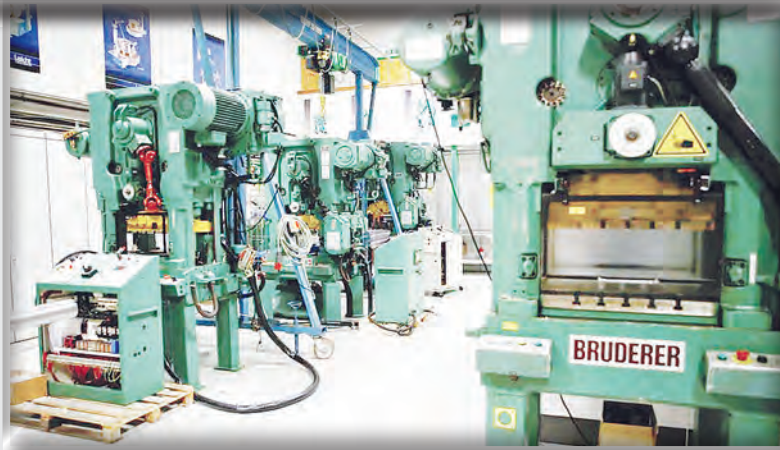
Some economists disagree with the consensus.

Brexit-supporting economist Gerard Lyons, an adviser to online wealth management platform NetWealth and who advised Boris Johnson during his years as the mayor of London, said it was wrong to blame Britain’s problems on Brexit.

“Our problems pre-date Brexit,” Lyons said, pointing to chronically low rates of investment in Britain. “Achieving the benefits of Brexit very much depends on delivering ... a growth plan - how you can use your levers post-Brexit.”

He criticized the doppelganger method of analysis on the basis that some smaller countries selected by the models were inappropriate comparators for a large economy like Britain.

Trade and investment data point to other Brexit problems.



Exports, especially in goods, have disappointed over the last three years - despite high hopes for a “Global Britain” rebalancing of the economy after Brexit.

Total exports, including services, have grown by less than those of any other G7 country since late 2019.

Boris Glass, senior economist at ratings agency S&P Global, said increased red tape in UK-EU trade had damaged the competitiveness of smaller British manufacturers especially, since they have fewer resources to deal with it.

“It’s worth noting that the UK has more small exporters than for example, France or Germany. So in that respect they are disadvantaged,” Glass said. “If you are an exporter with 20 employees, then the burden of filling out these forms is very costly. Some of them can’t compete at all.”

Business investment too has grown by less since the June 2016 Brexit referendum than in the United States, France or Germany, according to a Reuters analysis of data from the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development.

Some pro-Brexit economists say such statistics ignore the fact that British corporate investment was unusually strong in the years leading up to mid-2016 and was bound to slow. But business survey evidence overwhelmingly points to Brexit as a factor behind weak investment in recent years.

“It’s concerning that there doesn’t seem to be any kind of pickup in investment. And I think, in order for us to have a durable recovery from the Brexit shock, then we’ve got to see that rise,” Springford said.

Britain still boasts higher rates of employment and lower unemployment than most EU countries but there are some signs that Brexit may have impacted the labour market too.

Business groups want the government to relax its post-Brexit immigration rules as firms are struggling to find workers, something the BoE fears is stoking inflationary pressures.

And unlike most of its G7 peers, Britain’s employment rate has yet to recover to its pre-pandemic level.

## Riots, Sanctions...

FROM PAGE 1

“While the enemies are trying to stop the country’s progress, our people have resolved to move forward,” he remarked, asserting that the course of the country’s advancement would gather further momentum every day owing to the nation’s willpower and the government’s determination to be at the nation’s service.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the president enumerated his administration’s successful performance in various areas, including its managing to bring down the country’s 60-percent inflation level to 40 percent, its success to eliminate the budget deficit, and it’s increasing the economic growth level from four percent to 4.4 within just six months of taking office.

The administration, he added, was also trying to

de-dollarize the staples so a potential increase in the dollar’s exchange rate would not adversely affect the cost of the commodities.

Raisi identified smuggling and suppliers’ under-provision of the staples as two main reasons behind the increase in prices. He said the recent riots had played a role in reducing income generation levels across the country, and, in turn, increased the dollar’s exchange rate, but assured the nation that the country’s foreign exchange reserves currently stood at a “good and reliable” level.

Raisi urged those active in the field of exports to return their foreign exchange income to the country so the Central Bank would be capable of exercising more control on foreign reserves.

## Iran, Pakistan...

FROM PAGE 1

He said that the tariffs have been imposed by Pakistan on many Iranian export items including cement, fruits and tiles etc. Due to which the unofficial trade has increased. As a result, the government of Pakistan is facing loss in the form of reduction in tax revenue. He said that recently, Iran has removed Preferential Agreement restrictions on import items and allowed the import of Kinnoos from Pakistan. It is expected that the government of Pakistan will not obstruct the import of Iranian apples and kiwis.

The Consul General said that we need to focus on preferential trade agreements. The Iranian government is in the process of following up on it while the Pakistani Chambers should also follow up on it. He said that the problems of banking channels have started since 2010. Due to State Bank constraints, Iran’s electricity exports through barter trade and Pakistan’s rice exports have faced difficulties. We need to create a Conflict Resolution Committee or system that will be the responsibility of a financial institution. He said that we have presented our suggestions in this regard. Three months ago, the Governor of the State Bank of Iran came to Karachi and signed the agreement for the Conflict Resolution Committee. This is an important step that will resolve the disputes between traders on both sides. He said that Punjab is an agricultural province and we want the agricultural chambers of Iran to be connected with Punjab. He said that the importance of exchange of delegations cannot be denied. He said that 50 percent of the market in Iran is captured by Pakistani rice. We want you to cooperate with us for the first exhibition of Iranian products.

LCCI President Kashif Anwar said that there are excellent working relations between Lahore Chamber and Consulate General of Iran in Lahore. He said that both the countries have large domestic markets and unique geo-strategic competitive advantages but we have yet to enhance our trade volume by making use of these opportunities. He said that the potential sectors where Pakistan and Iran can enhance Trade are value-added Textiles, Pharmaceuticals and Rice. Iran is one of the biggest consumers of Denim in the region while Pakistani rice has a strong market in Iran. There is also a great potential for the pharmaceutical Industry in Pakistan to enhance its exports by tapping the Iranian market.

## WHO: COVID Still an Emergency But Nearing Inflection Point



GENEVA (AP) - The coronavirus remains a global health emergency, the World Health Organization chief said Monday, after a key advisory panel found the pandemic may be nearing an “inflection point” where higher levels of immunity can lower virus-related deaths.

Speaking at the opening of WHO’s annual executive board meeting, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said “there is no doubt that we’re in a far better situation now” than a year ago — when the highly transmissible Omicron variant was at its peak.

But Tedros warned that in the last eight weeks, at least 170,000 people have died around the world in connection with the coronavirus. He called for at-risk groups to be fully vaccinated, an increase in testing and early use of antivirals, an expansion of lab networks, and a fight against “misinformation” about the pandemic.

“We remain hopeful that in the coming year, the world will transition to a new phase in which we reduce hospitalizations and deaths to the lowest possible level,” he said.

Tedros’ comments came moments after WHO released findings of its emergency committee on the pandemic which reported that some 13.1 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered — with nearly 90% of health workers and more than four in five people over 60 years of age having completed the first series of jabs.

“The committee acknowledged that the COVID-19 pandemic may be approaching an inflexion point,” WHO said in a statement. Higher levels of immunity worldwide through vaccination or infection “may limit the impact” of the virus that causes COVID-19 on “morbidity and mortality,” the committee said.

“(B)ut there is little doubt that this virus will remain a permanently established pathogen in humans and animals for the foreseeable future,” it said. While Omicron versions are easily spread, “there has been a decoupling between infection and severe disease” compared to that of earlier variants.

## Rights Are Not Given...

FROM PAGE 1

After serial killing of the Palestinians it seems the Zionists have been encouraged to continue their killing or taking tough stance against the Palestinians.

Far-right Israeli minister Itamar Ben-Gvir threatened Palestinians with execution by the “electric chair” following the latest round of violence by regime forces across the occupied Palestinian territories.

Speaking at a meeting of his extremist party, Ben-Gvir vowed to push the Israeli parliament, known as the Knesset, to pass a bill to use the electric chair death penalty for Palestinians involved in retaliatory operations and attacks against Israeli military forces and settlers.

“Anyone who murders, harms, and slaughters civilians should be sent to the electric chair,” Ben-Gvir said.

The far-right Israeli minister also said he had called for the imposition of a curfew on Palestinian neighborhoods that pose a threat to Israel and the apprehension of those holding weapons.

The threat was made as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday vowed a “strong, swift and precise” response to the latest retaliatory attacks and said his cabinet, comprised of a group of hardline politicians, had decided to expedite gun permits for Israeli people to defend against Palestinian street attacks.

Netanyahu also said more soldiers and police would be deployed in the occupied territories, and security forces would embark on a series of operations to gather intelligence, confiscate illegal firearms, and carry out arrests.

The Zionists have become angry because of some brave retaliations by young Palestinians in the occupied lands against them and Ben-Gvir with his remarks shows how he and other Zionists are infuriated because of retaliatory acts of the Palestinians.

Tension has flared up in the occupied Palestinian territories in recent days. In a shooting operation carried out on Friday near a synagogue in an illegal Israeli settlement in the occupied al-Quds seven illegal settlers were killed and 10 others wounded. Two illegal settlers were also injured in another shooting attack in the same area on Saturday.

Ben-Gvir is the one who caused anger among the Palestinians by his presence in Al-Aqsa Mosque and his remarks.

More than 170 Palestinians, including at least 30 children, were killed across the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem last year. In January 2023 alone, at least 38 Palestinians including five children have been killed. The United Nations marked 2022 as the deadliest year for Palestinians in the West Bank in 16 years.

Despite such reports by the United Nations which are all against the Zionist regime, this international body just is a looker-on and it does not take any serious action against the Zionists’ crimes and it is just focused on the issues which are raised by the big powers, predominantly the Western states.

Unfortunately in recent days, Ukraine war and to some extend Covid-19 are two major issues which are discussed in the international bodies or among the heads of states in the world and nobody pays any attention to the Zionists crime, and the Zionists take advantage of this negligence and continue their crimes in cold blood without getting due punishment and Palestinians have no option but retaliation in different ways.

If the world really seeks peace and stability and wants to live in peace, it is better to take a firm and decisive action against the Zionist regime because this regime is cancerous and the main factor behind most problems in the world, and therefore it needs to be dealt properly otherwise the bloodshed of the Zionists will continue and Palestinians and Resistance Front have no option but to punish the Zionists by resorting to any tool and the UN and major forces then are not allowed to react to Palestinians’ response as it is said “rights are not given, they are taken” and the Islamic Republic of Iran has proved it to the world and it is time for Palestinians to prove it.

## Iran to Put South Pars...

FROM PAGE 1

According to the official, the goals set in the current year’s national budget bill for the exports of oil and gas will definitely be achieved by the yearend.

He noted that the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) has already sold enough oil and gas and petroleum products to realize the budget goals by 100 percent, however collecting the revenues needs more time.

In remarks in November 2022, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi highlighted the failure of the enemy’s policy of maximum pressure, saying the country’s oil export has reached the pre-sanction levels.

Earlier this week, the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) in a report put Iran’s average oil production in 2022 at 2.54 million barrels per day (bpd), 140,000 bpd more than the previous year.

Iran’s oil production in 2021 was about 2.4 million bpd.





## Mickelson at Peace If Never Plays PGA

LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - Phil Mickelson says he will be "at peace" if he never plays in a PGA Tour event or Ryder Cup again, nearly one year after his explosive remarks about the Saudi-funded LIV golf series triggered uproar.

In an interview with Sports Illustrated published yesterday, the six-time major winner said he was not bothered about the possibility of being frozen out of PGA Tour events for good. Mickelson was suspended by the PGA Tour last year after being one of the earliest big names to defect to the controversial LIV circuit.

LICENCE HOLDER: SOKHAN GOSTAR INSTITUTE

### 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.Marzdaran 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

## Mo Farah Returns for London Marathon

LONDON (Dispatches) - Britain's four-times Olympic champion Mo Farah said he expects 2023 to be the final year of his career, after confirming he will give his home London Marathon "one more shot" in April.

Farah, who withdrew from last year's event due to injury, has run the London Marathon three times with a best finish of third in 2018, the same year he won the Chicago Marathon.

8 IRAN NEWS

SPORTS

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 2, 2023

## Magic Rally to End Sixers' Win Streak

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Paolo Banchero had 29 points and nine rebounds, Moritz Wagner added 22 points and the Orlando Magic rallied from a 21-point deficit for a 119-109 victory over the host Philadelphia 76ers.

Banchero's dunk with 36 seconds remaining gave the Magic a 117-109 lead. Moritz Wagner also hit a clutch jumper and sank two free throws in the final 2:34.

Franz Wagner scored 19 points, Wendell Carter Jr. contributed 12 points and nine rebounds and Markelle Fultz added 12 points and 10 assists for the Magic, who snapped a two-game losing streak.

Joel Embiid finished with 30 points and 11 rebounds to lead the Sixers, who had their seven-game winning streak snapped. James Harden amassed 17 points, eight rebounds and six assists, and Tobias Harris also had 17 points.

Mavericks 111, Pistons 105

Luka Doncic reached the 50-point mark for the fourth time this season, pouring in 53 points to carry host Dallas past Detroit.

Doncic's fifth career 50-point game came after he sat out the previous game with a sprained ankle. He added eight rebounds and five assists. His 24 points were the highest first-quarter total for any player this season.

Bojan Bogdanovic's 29 points led the Pistons, who lost for the sixth time in seven games. Saddiq Bey had 18 points, and Jaden Ivey tossed in 14 before fouling out.

Trail Blazers 129, Hawks 125

Damian Lillard registered 42 points and six assists to lead Portland to a victory over visiting Atlanta.

Jerami Grant scored 22 points and Anfernee Simons added 21 points and seven assists as the Trail Blazers closed out a 3-3 homestand. Dejounte Murray scored a

career-high 40 points and also had eight rebounds and seven assists for the Hawks, who lost for the fourth time in the past five games. Bogdan Bogdanovic had 23 points and seven assists, while John Collins scored 16 points.

Grant made two free throws with 23.9 seconds remaining and Josh Hart split two free throws with 10.9 seconds left to make



it a five-point margin. Bogdanovic hit a trey to bring Atlanta within 127-125 with 5.7 seconds left. Lillard sank two free throws with 3.1 seconds left to seal it.

Warriors 128, Thunder 120

Stephen Curry scored 38 points to lead Golden State over host Oklahoma City, and he equaled a season high with eight 3-pointers as the Warriors won for the third consecutive game.

Curry and Draymond Green each had 12 of Golden State's 37 assists. Klay Thompson added 28 points while Poole and Andrew Wiggins, who returned from a two-game absence caused by a non-COVID illness, scored 15 each.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander led the Thunder with 31 points on 10-of-24 shooting, despite going just 1-for-8 from the floor in the first quarter. Josh Giddey added 21 points for Oklahoma City, which has alternated wins and losses over the past six games.

Nets 121, Lakers 104

Kyrie Irving scored 26 points as Brooklyn started quickly and made enough plays down the stretch for a victory over Los Angeles in New York.

Cam Thomas capitalized on extended playing time at guard due to the absences of Ben Simmons (left knee) and T.J. Warren (left shin) and added 21 for the Nets. Patty Mills also finished with 21 points as he and Thomas combined to shoot 15 of 25 and hit eight 3-pointers.

Thomas Bryant led the Lakers with 18 points and Russell Westbrook had 17. Westbrook added 10 assists to move past Gary Payton for 10th place on the NBA's all-time list. The Lakers were without Anthony Davis (right foot) and LeBron James (sore left ankle) along with Austin Reeves (left hamstring strain).

## Bayern Sign Canceled On Loan

BERLIN (Dispatches) - Bayern Munich have signed full back Joao Cancelo on an initial loan deal from Manchester City for the rest of the season with an option to buy the Portugal international, the Bundesliga club said.

His arrival completes a trio of winter signings for Bayern, who face Paris St Germain in the Champions League last 16 in two weeks, with keeper Yann Sommer and defender Daley Blind.

They were brought in to replace long-term injured goalkeeper Manuel Neuer and defenders Lucas Hernandez and Noussair Mazraoui.

Cancelo made 16 league starts for City this season but has not played for the club since their derby loss to Manchester United earlier this month, missing the last three games.

He started only three of 10 games after the World Cup break and lost his place to Nathan Ake while 18-year-old Rico Lewis also emerged as an option for manager Pep Guardiola this season.

"My decision had to do with the playing time that had been little in recent weeks," the Portuguese told a news conference. "There was speculation that my relationship with (Manchester City coach) Pep (Guardiola) was not the best but fact is I wanted to play more."

## Real Madrid Expected To Continue European Dominance of Club World Cup

RABAT (Dispatches) - One of the last Club World Cups in its current format begins tomorrow in Morocco, where Real Madrid will be favourites to continue Europe's dominance of the much-maligned FIFA competition.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino announced on the sidelines of the World Cup in Qatar in December that an expanded Club World Cup is planned from 2025.

The bigger competition, which would feature 32 teams, has been a controversial pet project of Infantino's for some time. A 24-team Club World Cup, involving eight European sides, had been due to take place in China in 2021 only to be put on hold due to the coronavirus pandemic.

World football's governing body is yet to reveal any further details of the plans, but global players' union FIFPro has already complained of Infantino making the announcement "unilaterally without seriously consulting...with the players".

For now, the Club World Cup limps on with just seven teams, including the six continental champions.

After five consecutive editions in the Middle East it returns to Morocco, which hosted the tournament in 2013 and 2014, and Real will be expected to become the 10th consecutive European winners.

Real, the reigning European champions, have claimed the title four times, including in Morocco in 2014.

Real will enter in the semi-finals on February 8 and will play in Rabat against either Concacaf champions Seattle Sounders, Egyptian giants Al Ahly or New Zealand's Auckland City, the champions of Oceania.

If they win, Carlo Ancelotti's side will advance to the final on February 11.

The other semi-final will see last year's Copa Libertadores winners Flamengo take on either Al Hilal of Saudi Arabia or home hopes Wydad Casablanca.

## Man United's Eriksen Sidelined for Extended Period



That means he will miss the start of Denmark's European Championship qualifying campaign with matches at home to Finland and away to Kazakhstan in Group H in late March.

MANCHESTER (Dispatches) - Manchester United midfielder Christian Eriksen has been ruled out for up to three months with an ankle injury, dealing a significant blow to the Premier League club's hopes for the remainder of the season.

The Denmark player, 30, had to come off in United's 3-1 win over Reading on Saturday in the FA Cup fourth round following a foul by Andy Carroll and a statement from the club on Tuesday said he was "likely to be out until late April or early May".

Eriksen, who needed life-saving treatment on the pitch in June 2021 after suffering a near-fatal cardiac arrest in a European Championship match against the Finns, has been instrumental in United's impressive form this term.

He has played 31 of United's 32 matches in all competitions this season, scoring two goals and providing nine assists.

The midfielder joined United last year after leaving fellow Premier League side Brentford, where he had re-established his career on a short-term deal after his heart problems.

"We are disappointed about it but it happens in top football," United manager Erik ten Hag said today.

"We have to deal with it. We have good players in the midfield department but I think we can never fill that because every player has his own characteristics."

"Cristian Eriksen brings top quality and especially in some specifics that is hard to replace. His impact in the final third."

## No ATP Action Against Zverev

LONDON (Dispatches) - Former world number two Alexander Zverev will face no disciplinary action from the ATP after an independent investigation found "insufficient evidence" to substantiate allegations of domestic abuse, it was announced.

The 25-year-old German player became the subject of an ATP-commissioned probe in October 2021 following allegations made by his former girlfriend, Olya Sharypova.

Zverev, on a comeback from tearing ankle ligaments at the French Open last year, had denied all of the allegations.

The ATP said in a statement: "A major independent investigation into Alexander Zverev has found insufficient evidence to substantiate published allegations of abuse. As a result, no disciplinary action will be taken by ATP."

The ATP, the governing body for the men's professional tennis tour, said while the primary focus of the investigation related to alleged abuses at the ATP Masters 1000 event in Shanghai in 2019, its scope also included purported misconduct in other locations, including Monaco, New York and Geneva, as referenced in public reporting.

An inquiry led by the Lake Forest Group (LFG), a third-party investigator, conducted what the statement said were "extensive interviews" with Sharypova, Zverev and 24 others including family and friends, players, and other parties involved with the ATP tour.

It also reviewed submissions by both Sharypova and Zverev, including text messages, audio files and photos.



## Russia Says Athletes Must Compete Without Restrictions

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - The head of Russia's Olympic Committee said that athletes representing Russia must not be subjected to different conditions from those of other countries, amid a growing row over their participation in the 2024 Paris Games.

"Russians must participate exactly on the same conditions as all other athletes. Any additional conditions or criteria are unwelcome, especially any that have political overtones, which are completely unacceptable for the Olympic movement," Stanislav Pozdnyakov said, according to Russian news agencies. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) said last week it was examining a "pathway" for Russians to take part in the summer Games next year, probably as neutral athletes rather than under their national flag.

Russia and its ally Belarus, which allowed its territory to be a stage ground for the offensive, have been sidelined from most Olympic sports since Russian forces invaded Ukraine last February.

That announcement sparked an immediate backlash from Kyiv, with a Ukrainian presidential aide accusing the IOC of being a "promoter of war".

Ukraine has threatened to boycott the Paris Games if Russians are allowed to take part. Pozdnyakov said his organisation welcomed efforts by the IOC to allow Russian athletes to compete.

"But as for additional conditions, we strongly disagree. The Olympic Charter states that all athletes must participate on an equal footing," he added.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Russia's participation in the Paris Olympics would amount to showing that "terror can allegedly be something acceptable".

