

President Ebrahim Raisi Met With a Group of Scholars and Elites From Different Chinese Universities in Beijing on Wednesday Where the President Elaborated on Iran's Stance on Various Global and Regional Questions

IRAN NEWS

Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, Said That the Seventh Edition of the International Festival of Handicrafts And Traditional Arts Will Start Next Week Where the Best Will Be Awarded With Silver Cedar Award

VOL. XXVIII, No. 7713 TEHRAN Price 50,000 Rials

www.irannewsdaily.com

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 16, 2023 - BAHMAN 27, 1401

2 DOMESTIC

Tehran Attaches Great Importance to Developing Ties With Beijing



> SEE PAGE 2

3 DOMESTIC

Major Surge Reported In Petchem, Oil Products Exports



> SEE PAGE 3

4 INTERNATIONAL

Sweden, Finland Joining NATO Together Not Main Question



> SEE PAGE 4

8 SPORTS

Bayern, AC Milan Take First Steps Towards Champions League Quarters



> SEE PAGE 8

NIOC, Sinopec in Talks for Yadavaran Oilfield Phase-2

TEHRAN (MNA) – The director of investment and business of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) says that NIOC held regular negotiations with China's Sinopec Company regarding the second phase development of Yadavaran field.

Fereydoun Kurd Zanganeh said, "Despite the sanctions, NIOC, in line with the strategic document of long-term cooperation between Iran and China, continues to negotiate with the private and state companies of this country for the development of the Yadavaran field and other joint fields in Iran."

He noted that the first phase of the Yadavaran oil field was already completed by Sinopec in 2015 with a capacity of 110,000 barrels per day and is productive, adding, "According to the negotiations with this company, the second phase of the development of this joint field was also planned to be handed over to this company, but unfortunately, at that time, the former oil minister stopped the negotiations, therefore, in the past year, NIOC has conducted regular negotiations with Chinese companies in the development of oil and gas fields." **See Page 7**

West's Commitment To JCPOA Revival Talks Remains in Doubt

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russia's ambassador to international organizations in Vienna has raised doubts about the West's commitment to negotiations to revive the 2015 Iran nuclear agreement, saying there is "a big question mark" in this regard.

Mikhail Ulyanov made the remarks in a tweet on Wednesday, reacting to Chinese President Xi Jinping's emphasis on China's commitment to the talks.


"No doubt that China is committed to the JCPOA," he wrote, using an acronym for the nuclear deal or the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

He hastened to add, "The question is to what extent the US and E3 are committed to revitalization of the nuclear deal and maintaining nuclear non-proliferation. This is a big question mark as of today."

He also said the US and E3 – France, Britain, and Germany – may have a "hidden agenda" with regard to the issue.

Iran, Russia and China have repeatedly blamed Western countries for the impasse in the talks. **See Page 7**

Leader Hails Historic Turnout in Islamic Revolution Anniversary Celebrations



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN – Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei commended the Iranian nation for its "historic" turnout in Saturday's mass rallies across Iran to mark the 44th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution.

Addressing a meeting with a group of people from Iran's East Azerbaijan Province on Wednesday, Ayatollah Khamenei said the massive turnout, amid a cold winter, was born out of the nation's faith in the Islamic Republic.

"This last Saturday, the 22nd of Bahman (February 11), was a historic one. People literally created an epic across the country," the Leader said during the meeting, which took place ahead of the anniversary of the popular uprising of the people of Tabriz, which took place on February 18, 1978.

"This amount of propaganda, the problems that people feel, the provocations of the enemies, the cold weather and below zero temperature in some parts of the country were all ignored by the warmth of the Iranian people's faith and insight," he said.

"People came out with this grandeur; the people's turnout revealed many facts."

Ayatollah Khamenei also stressed that the nation conveyed the message of its "full support" for the Islamic establishment through its participation in the rallies.

"The message of the Iranian nation on the 22nd of Bahman was full support for the Islamic Revolution and the Islamic Republic's establishment. It was louder than all voices," the Leader said.

"Of course, there are and there were opposing and dissident voices. The enemies – the world's media empire, which is in the hands of the Zionists and the Americans – tried to make the [opposing] voices prevail, but no; [they] could not. The voice of the nation prevailed over the voice of others."

Ayatollah Khamenei said one of the most important objectives of the recent riots across Iran was to make people forget the 22nd of Bahman and dissuade them from millions-strong participation in the 1979 revolution anniversary rallies.

However, the Leader added, the people "exercised endurance" with their massive turnout.

The Leader further highlighted the role of national unity in strengthening the country and advised the people to avoid discords over minor issues.

Ayatollah Khamenei rejected claims that the Islamic Republic has reached an impasse, saying, "If we have reached an impasse, why does the enemy spend so much to overthrow [the Islamic Republic]? Well, overthrowing a government that has reached an impasse doesn't need money, it will be overthrown by itself!"

The Iranian nation's progress in different sectors such as defense, industry, and infrastructure has infuriated the enemy, the Leader said.

BRICS to Decide Soon Whether Iran, Saudi Arabia Can Join

LONDON (Dispatches) - The BRICS group of nations plans to decide this year whether to admit new members and what criteria they would have to meet, with Iran and Saudi Arabia among those who've formally asked to join, according to South Africa's ambassador to the bloc.

Enlarging the group that includes Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa would benefit Beijing, as the world's second-biggest economy tries to build diplomatic clout to counter the dominance of developed nations in the United Nations, International Monetary Fund, World Bank and other institutions.

China initiated the conversation about expansion when it was chair last year, triggering concern among other members that their influence will be diluted, especially if Beijing's close allies are admitted. China's gross domestic product is more than twice the size of all four other BRICS members combined.

The proposal to expand BRICS will be one of the economic bloc's main focuses this year, said Ambassador Anil Sooklal. South Africa is the group's current chair.

"There are over a dozen countries that have knocked on the door," Sooklal said in an interview in Johannesburg last week. "We are quite advanced at looking at a further group of new members."

The potential repositioning of BRICS comes as developed nations in Europe and North America seek to bolster alliances to push back against the influence of an increasingly dominant and assertive China by forming new blocs and signing trade and security pacts. The so-called Quad, an alliance between the US, Japan, India and Australia, has gained in prominence since being resurrected in 2017 after standing dormant for almost a decade. And in 2021, Australia, the UK and the US entered into a security alliance known as AUKUS.

We are living in "the world between orders. We don't know what the new order is going to be," Sooklal said. "We believe we need to play a role in ensuring that we have a more equitable, inclusive, transparent, global architecture." **See Page 7**

ViewPoint
By: Hamid Reza Naghashian

Time to Uprise Against the Zionists

It seems it is now time to uprise against the Zionist regime which kills Palestinians ruthlessly without getting any due response from the international bodies.

As the Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly reiterated that the Zionist regime is cancerous and it should be removed from the world map, it is the turn of other Muslim states to follow the Islamic Republic in fight against the fake Israeli regime and normalization of ties with this regime will give a new life to this declining regime.

Last week, hundreds of people attended a national conference in Gaza which was organized by Palestinian resistance factions. The event aimed to bolster the resistance in al-Quds and the occupied West Bank.

In recent weeks, extremist Israeli settlers and political figures backed by regime forces have been violating the sanctity of the al-Aqsa mosque compound in al-Quds.

Israeli forces have also killed and injured dozens of Palestinians in the occupied West Bank since the beginning of 2023.

Speaking to the media, the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas said the resistance in Gaza is ready to support the resistance in al-Quds and the occupied West Bank.

Occupied by Israeli regime forces more than fifty five years ago, al-Quds has been at the core of the Palestinian struggle for freedom.

Palestinian resistance factions have expressed their unwavering support for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and al-Quds.

They also vowed to use all forms of resistance to liberate al-Quds and the occupied West Bank.

Observers say the international community has failed to help Palestinians in al-Quds and the occupied West Bank while turning a blind eye to violations committed by the Israeli regime against them for decades.

Palestinians say that they will continue their struggle against the Israeli regime until the liberation of al-Quds and all of Palestine.

Concurrent with the conference, Israel demolished another Palestinian house in a neighborhood of East al-Quds as its forces detain over a dozen Palestinians in several areas across the occupied West Bank.

Palestine's official Wafa news agency, citing media sources, reported that Israeli bulldozers, accompanied by troops, raided the neighborhood of Jabal al-Mukabber at dawn on Monday and cordoned off the house before demolishing it. They claimed the house, belonging to Adham Bashir, had been constructed without a permit. **See Page 7**

Iran, Pakistan Open 5th Border Crossing

ZAHEDAN (IRNA) – Iran and Pakistan have opened their fifth border crossing in the Iranian border county of Saravan, Sistan and Baluchestan Province.

Mobin Ali Mir, the director of border markets in Sistan and Baluchestan Province, said that the border crossing had been established with the aim of enhancing unity and supporting job creation as well as maintaining security.

The Saravan border crossing is expected to help boost economic exchanges in the borderline, the director said, noting that people living in border areas of both countries are Muslims and brothers, and they can economically assist each other via export and import of goods.

According to the official, Sistan and Baluchestan Province can play a key role in trade, foreign transit, and border exchanges thanks to its geographical situation, because it has borderlines with both Pakistan and Afghanistan to the east. The province has also access to international waters to the south. **See Page 7**

Sokhan Gostar Institute

IRAN NEWS

PRIVATE ENGLISH NEWSPAPER IN IRAN



Advertisement Department
021-44253335-39

www.irannewsdaily.com
info@irannewsdaily.com

@irannewsdaily @irannewsdaily

Iran Self-Sufficient in Field of Helicopters

TEHRAN (MNA) – The Head of the Iran Aviation Industries Organization (IAIO) said that Iran has successfully attained self-sufficiency in the area of helicopters.

Second Brigadier General Afshin Khajeh Fard pointed out that Iran has achieved self-sufficiency in the field of overhauling helicopters. Many of the helicopters' systems have been indigenized, he further noted.

He has previously announced some states' readiness to cooperate with Iran in joint projects of making helicopters.

Tehran Attaches Great Importance to Developing Ties With Beijing

TEHRAN (MNA) – Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian says that Iran attaches great importance to developing relations with China.

Amirabdollahian who accompanies Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi on his visit to Beijing made the remarks in a meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang on Tuesday.

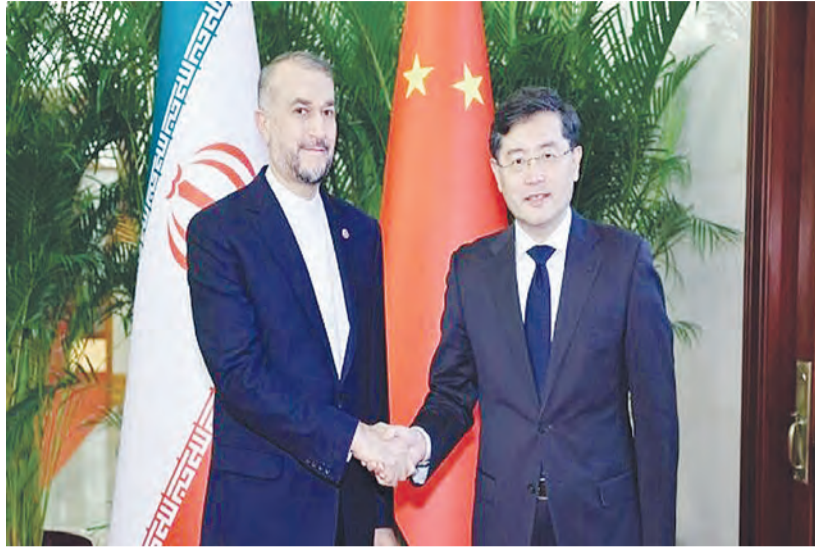
Noting that Iran attaches great importance to developing relations with China, Amirabdollahian said that Iran is ready to work with China to implement the important consensus reached by the two presidents and ensure the comprehensive cooperation plan of the two countries achieves more results.

On the Iranian nuclear issue, Amirabdollahian briefed the latest progress in the negotiations on resuming implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and expressed appreciation for China's constructive role.

Qin Gang, for his part, said China and Iran should continue to support each other on issues concerning core interests.

He also said the fruitful talks held by the two presidents resulted in a broad and important consensus, provided important strategic guidance, and injected strong impetus into the development of bilateral relations.

China stands ready to work with Iran to deepen practical cooperation, strengthen



people-to-people exchanges, implement the latest consensus reached by the two presidents, and push for new progress on the China-Iran comprehensive strategic partnership, Qin added.

He said the two sides should strengthen coordination and cooperation on international and regional affairs, make joint efforts to promote enduring peace and stability in the region and safeguard the common interests of developing countries and international fairness and justice.

Qin said China will continue to promote the political and diplomatic settlement of the Iranian nuclear issue and calls on other parties concerned to make active efforts toward this end.

Tehran Hosts 10th Iran-Kazakhstan Joint Consular Commission



TEHRAN (IRNA) - The 10th joint commission meeting of Iran and Kazakhstan was held in Tehran on Wednesday.

The event was held in the presence of the managing director of the Iranian Foreign Ministry for consular affairs Alireza Mahmoodi and his Kazakh counterpart.

Expressing their satisfaction with lifting 14-day visas for the citizens of the two countries, the two officials emphasized the further development of relations and increase in flight routes.

The two sides also signed MoU on consular cooperation.

Iran, Turkmenistan Determined To Bolster Mutual Ties

TEHRAN (MNA) – Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance said that holding Iran's cultural week in Turkmenistan was sign of resolve on both sides to give a boost to bilateral ties.

Mohammad Mehdi Esmaili made the remarks during a meeting with Turkmenistan's Foreign Minister Reshit Meredow.

Addressing the opening ceremony of Iran's cultural days and an exhibition of Iranian handicrafts in Ashgabat on Monday, Esmaili expressed Tehran's readiness to host Turkmenistan's cultural week.

He said that culture is the major element connecting the two nations.

Cultural affinities between both sides are so wide that have brought the hearts of the people of both countries close together, the minister said.

"Together with the Iranian artists present in the cultural week of Turkmenistan, we are the messengers of friendship and affection between the two countries."

The Cultural Week of the Islamic Republic of Iran kicked off in Turkmenistan on Monday.

Tehran, Minsk Discuss Cooperation Dynamics



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus Sergei Aleinik met with Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Saeed Yari.

The parties discussed the dynamics of bilateral cooperation in politics, trade and manufacturing.

The Belarusian foreign minister and the ambassador of Iran compared notes on such relevant issues as upcoming bilateral events, the development of the legal framework for cooperation and the strengthening of business contacts.

Supporting Terrorists Integral Part of U.S. Foreign Policy

TEHRAN (MNA) – Foreign Ministry spokesman called supporting terrorists and criminals an integral part of the U.S. foreign policy. Nasser Kanaani in a series of tweets on Wednesday wrote, "Supporting terrorists and criminals is an integral part of the U.S. foreign policy."

"The Zionist regime as the manifestation of organized terrorism, Mujahedin-e-Khalq Organization (MKO) terrorist group, and the torturing and criminal members of SAVAK as a terrible anti-human organization, all have been and are under the direct and continuous support of the United States," he added.

"The clear message of the Iranian nation to the US; Stop supporting criminals and terrorists, interfering in Iran's internal affairs, and oppressive sanctions against the Iranian nation," Kanaani noted.

A few hundred people poured into the streets of downtown Los Angeles on Saturday – coinciding with the 44th anniversary of the 1979 Islamic Revolution – calling for regime change in Iran.

The participants included the members of the anti-Iran terrorist outfit, Mujahedin-e-Khalq Organisation (MKO), monarchists loyal to the Pahlavi family and one familiar face who gleefully posed for pictures amid the circus.

President Gets Honorary Professor Title at Beijing University

TEHRAN (MNA) – In a ceremony held on Wednesday, the title of "Honorary Professor" of Peking University was awarded to Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi.

Regarding President Raisi's services and measures in strengthening and developing relations between Iran and China as well as maintaining peace and stability in the region and the world, the title of "Honorary Professor" of Peking University is awarded to him, said Hao Ping the secretary of Peking University in the ceremony.

Also, in this ceremony, top four professors active in the field of Iranian studies and the Persian language, were honored.

Peking University - APRU. Founded in 1898, Peking University was originally named the Imperial University



of Peking. It was the first national comprehensive university, as well as the supreme administrative organ for education in China at that time.

Addressing the officials, professors, and students of Peking University, Raisi emphasized that the formation of a new world order requires boosting multilateralism, maximum synergy, solidarity, and distance from unilateralism.

Given the fact the Asian region is at the center of emerging global changes, therefore, maintaining and strengthening peace in this vast area is not only a choice but a necessity, he noted.

Overcoming transnational challenges such as terrorism and extremism in the West Asian region is one of the strategic successes of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Iranian president added.

Stopping Intra-Ummah Disputes First Step to Unity

TEHRAN (IP) - The Head of the World Forum for Proximity of Islamic Schools of Thought (WFPST) said if the Muslim community managed to stop conflicts, insults, and disputes among themselves, they could say that they are united.

Mentioning the comment by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Khamenei that the stop of the dispute is the first step to getting unity, Hojatoleslam Hamid Shahriyari said: "If we cross this first bridge, we have just yet to reach the Islamic civilization."

Hojatoleslam Hamid Shahriyari made the remarks at the second regional Islamic unity conference held in Gorgan of Golestan Province, northeastern Iran. In addition to the fact that the dispute must be removed from among the Islamic sects, cooperation must be shored up between them both for the fraternity of the Muslims and against their enemies, he mentioned it as the second step to the very unity.

"The third step is that Islamic countries should cooperate with each other and help each other in solving problems. The body of the Islamic Ummah is an integrated body and if one member feels pain, everyone will feel pain," the top cleric added.

He stressed the removal of discrimination in education, social justice, and cultural areas so that ignorance would fade away and the third step would get realized.

The head of WFPST noted: "Our ideal is the Union of Islamic States, but for it to be different from existing unions such as the European Union, it must be an Islamic union, that is, it must have a deep belief in the Creator of the Resurrection day and the Divine prophets. If we do not have Sharia (Islamic laws), we will become a union like the European Union."

Third Shipment of Aid From Iran Reaches Quake-Hit Turkey

TEHRAN (PressTV) - A third shipment of humanitarian aid provided by Iran has started reaching Turkey, where more than 35,000 have perished so far as a result of an earthquake that hit the country and neighboring Syria more than a week ago.

An Iranian plane carrying aid consignments touched down at the airport in the south-central Turkish city of Gaziantep on Tuesday, showed footage posted on Twitter by Ashkan Mousavi, director-general of public relations at Iran's Red Crescent Society (IRCS).

The combined death toll from the 7.8-magnitude temblor that hit the neighboring countries on February 6 has surpassed 40,000, with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan putting the number of fatalities in Turkey at 35,418.

Pir-Hossein Koulivand, head of the IRCS, has also traveled to Turkey to examine the situation of quake-hit people from up close.

Footage from Koulivand's trip to Turkey, showed him being embraced by his Turkish counterpart Karam Kinik, who expressed emotional gratitude towards the Islamic Republic over the humanitarian assistance.

"We have felt Iran by our side at every time and moment, when we would face a problem," Kinik said, noting that Iranian relief teams were among the first to rush to Turkey's assistance in the aftermath of the devastating quake.

"[Both] us and the Turkish people are grateful for these services and efforts," he said, adding, "We thank God for having brothers like you."

Over 7,000 MW To Be Added To Power Generation Capacity

TEHRAN (MNA) - Energy Ministry's Spokesman for Electricity Industry Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi said the country's electricity generation capacity is going to increase by 7,778 megawatts (MW) by the beginning of summer (June 22) in order to meet the hot season's peak demand.

Speaking to the press on Monday, Rajabi Mashhadi noted that the Energy Ministry

has defined 140 executive programs for ensuring the sustained supply of electricity during the summer's peak consumption period.

According to the official, the mentioned programs have been classified into three main categories including the development of power plant capacity, the development of the electricity network, and the promotion of consumption management strategies.

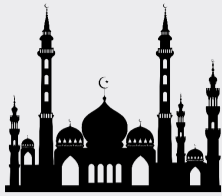
Rajabi Mashhadi noted that based on the programs defined for the development of power plant capacity, new power plants with a total capacity of 6,000 MW will be constructed and the rest of the abovementioned figure will be provided through implementing overhaul programs and improving the efficiency of the existing power plants.

The official further noted that the overhaul operations are already

underway for 107,000 MW of the country's power plants and the program has progressed by 60 percent.

Back in November 2021, Energy Minister Ali-Akbar Mehrabian announced that the construction of 10,000 MW capacity power plants had been started by various industrial sectors across the country, saying: "Four major industries have started their work in the field of power plant construction. Based on the contract concluded with these industries, the said industries will not be provided with electricity from the national grid if they cannot deliver the power plants based on the specified schedule."

Over the past decade, constant temperature rising and the significant decrease in rainfalls across Iran have put the country in a hard situation regarding electricity supply during peak consumption periods.



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	12:18
■ Evening (Maghreb)	18:05
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	05:25
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:49

31. Say: "Who is it that sustains you (in life) from the sky and from the earth? or who is it that has power over hearing and sight? And who is it that brings out the living from the dead and the dead from the living? and who is it that rules and regulates all affairs?" They will soon say, "(Allah)". Say, "will ye not then show piety (to Him)?"

32. Such is Allah, your real Cherisher and Sustainer: apart from truth, what (remains) but error? How then are ye turned away?

Surah 10. Jonah (31 - 32)

Major Surge Reported in Petchem, Oil Products Exports

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Iran reported major increases in exports of certain petrochemicals and oil products in the calendar year that started in late March 2022.

An industry source said that petrochemicals shipment had accounted for \$12 billion or 27% of Iran's total exports in the 10 months to late January.

Hamid Hosseini, a senior member of Iran's Oil, Gas and Petrochemical Products Exporters Union (OPEX), said oil products exports from Iran had reached \$13 billion between March 2022 and January this year.

Hosseini said that Iran had earned some \$4.9 billion from exports of 6.6 million metric tons (mt) of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) in the nine months to late December, an increase of 120% compared to the same previous period.

He said exports of methanol from Iran had reached \$1.8 billion for 6.8 million mt of shipments in the nine months to late December.

The businessman added that Iran had exported 1.6 million mt of urea worth \$975 million in the nine calendar months to the end of 2022, adding that exports of polymers also increased by 77% over the same period.

A report by the official IRNA news agency said that Iran had earned some \$1 billion from exports of bitumen over the 10 months to late January.

The figures come amid Iran's continued efforts to increase its exports of petroleum



products and petrochemicals as a solution to avoid foreign sanctions affecting its direct crude oil exports.

Experts say the policy has strengthened Iran's non-oil exports and led to the creation of tens of thousands of new jobs in the country.

Reacting to a report that the U.S. is working to zero Iraq's dependence on Iran's gas and electricity, Hosseini said that it is impossible because Iraq's condition is in a way that they cannot cut their dependence on Iran's gas and electricity and pointed to the reasons for this dependence.

He added that with development of industries and consumption in Iraq, this country will continue to buy Iran's gas and electricity because Iraq is unable to import all of its needs via its ports, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait or Turkey and it needs at least to import 20m to 25m tons of its needs either transit from Iran or buying Iranian goods and energy.

Iran Stresses Scientific, Technological Cooperation of ECO States

TEHRAN (MNA) – Minister of Science, Research, and Technology has called for scientific and technological cooperation of ECO states.

Mohammad-Ali Zolfigol made the remarks in the opening ceremony of the 7th executive meeting of the ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) in Isfahan.

He underlined that scientific-technological cooperation among ECO states is advantageous compared to economic cooperation.

He put forward the setting up of a database consisting of statistics on the status of science, technology, and education of regional countries.

ECOSF is a specialized institute operating under ECO with the aim of promoting economic growth based on science, technology, and innovation.

The Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) is an inter-governmental organization comprised of Iran, Pakistan, Turkey, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan which seeks economic development among member states with an aggregate population of 500 million.



Tehran, Moscow to Further Reduce Dollar Usage in Trade

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Iranian Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali says the reduction of the usage of the dollar in bilateral trade will also diminish its impact on the economies of both Russia and Iran.

Iranian Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali explained that a large portion of trade between

Iran and Russia is carried out using national currencies, however, the weight of the US dollar in their bilateral trade must be further reduced.

According to Nour News, Jalali said "As much as 60% of trade between Russia and Iran is carried out in the national currencies of the two countries: the ruble and the rial. But we have to decrease the 40%-share of the dollar."

Reduced usage of the U.S. dollar in bilateral trade will, according to the ambassador, reduce the impact of the dollar on the Russian-Iranian economic partnership.

Jalali noted that the ruble might become the major currency used for commerce between Eurasian Economic Union countries and one of the key currencies used among members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, alongside China's yuan.

Russia's ambassador to Tehran Alexei Dedov told reporters, on February 9, that trade relations between Russia and Iran have reached a record high of \$4.6 billion in 2022, a stark increase of 15% compared to the year prior.

The Russian diplomat added that prospects for further growth are likewise anticipated for the year 2023.

"Record trade figures for 2022 are largely due to the fruitful agricultural cooperation between Russian and Iranian companies. Agri-food accounts for about 85% of our trade," Dedov said, noting that the numbers for the year 2022 were not final and that upward revisions are still ongoing.

"Judging by where we stand politically and economically, we obviously expect bilateral trade to keep growing," Dedov said about prospects for growth in 2023.

Russian exports mainly consist of cereals and oilseeds, timber, non-organic chemicals, machine-building equipment, paper, and cardboard.

Iran, on the other hand, exports fruits, vegetables, nuts, dairy, plastics, ferrous metal products, plumbing, and construction materials.

Dedov stated that Iran Khodro intends to deliver the 2,000 cars to Russia by the end of March in an interview with Sputnik.

Dedov said that Iran Khodro is presently working on its largest program, which calls for the delivery of 2,000 automobiles to Russia by the end of the Iranian calendar year 1401, or March 20, 2023.

The envoy also mentioned SAIPA, another Iranian automaker, which is negotiating with Russian distributors to export more than 20,000 cars to that nation each year.

Dedov underlined that the challenges around acquiring certifications and establishing a network of dealerships have not yet been resolved, which may modify the delivery date despite the current negotiations. Additionally, he mentioned that Iran and Russia are in talks to produce automobiles and auto parts together.



Iran, China Can Triple Trade to Over \$70b

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran and China have a potential to triple the value of their annual trade to over \$70 billion, according to a senior Iranian businessman who coordinates private-sector trade between the two countries.

Majid Reza Hariri, who chairs Iran-China Joint Chamber of Commerce, said in remarks published on Tuesday that Tehran and Beijing can capitalize on their growing political and energy ties to boost bilateral trade.

He said trade between Iran and China has been stable in recent years despite US sanctions targeting Iran's access to international markets.

"We have had around \$24 billion worth of trade with the Chinese even under the worst conditions of sanctions and we can reach at least triple that figure," said Hariri in an interview with the official government newspaper Iran.

The businessman hailed China's policy of maintaining close economic relations with Iran despite US sanctions, adding that trade with Beijing has been much easier for Iran compared with other trade partners since 2018 when Washington imposed its sweeping sanctions on Tehran.

He said China has increased its purchase of Iranian crude oil despite US bans, adding that the country even declares some limited state purchases of Iranian oil in its customs figures to show that it officially rejects the unilateral sanctions imposed on Iran.

Hariri said that Raisi's government has indicated that it is more interested in building new economic and energy ties with China than a previous administration that left office in August 2020.

Iran-Tanzania Trade Hits \$70m in 2022

TEHRAN (MNA) – Trade between Iran and Tanzania reached \$70 million last year, Iranian Ambassador Hossein Alvandi Bahineh said.

The envoy made the announcement on the occasion of commemorating the 44th year since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran and the 40th anniversary of ties between the Iranian government and Tanzania in a ceremony held in Dar es Salaam.

Tanzania's Foreign Affairs and East Africa Cooperation Minister Stergomena Tax graced the occasion and hailed the cordial relations between the two countries.

The Iranian envoy said trade had increased over the years due to the developing commercial and economic capacities of the two countries.

Alvandi affirmed that Iran is ready to expand cordial relations in all political, economic and cultural fields based on mutual interest, asserting that Iran is also ready to provide its capabilities to support Tanzania's development efforts.

The minister noted that Tanzania will soon host the fifth round of the Joint Permanent Commission of Cooperation between the two countries. Financial Tribune reported.

She assured the Iranian envoy that Tanzania is ready to host the Iranian

delegation, with both sides reaffirming their commitment to strengthening cordial ties and easing trade links, investment flows and cultural exchanges.

"Tanzania and Iran have enjoyed cordial relations and cooperated in areas such as health, education, culture and agriculture," she said, expressing gratitude to the Islamic Republic for support.

"This was rendered through official development assistance directed at health, education, culture and agriculture, among other sectors. Tanzania remains committed to working closely with the government of the Islamic Republic to enhance bilateral relations for mutual benefit."

The minister praised the work of the embassy during the tenure of the current envoy, noting that under his stewardship, the two countries have witnessed notable achievements in bilateral relations.

"Tanzania maintains unwavering support for the Iranian mission," she asserted, emphasizing that ties between the two countries have been steadfast and growing year after year.

The minister noted that as friendly nations, they have supported each other bilaterally and internationally in the past 40 years.

Foreign Investors To Participate In TIM 2023 in Tehran

TEHRAN (MNA) – Director of the Technology Investment Meeting (TIM) Milad Sadrkhanlou says that the TIM 2023 event will be held in the coming days with the participation of foreign investors from different countries.

Saying that so far, 4 technology exchange events have been held between D8 countries, Milad Sadrkhanlou stated that TIM 2023 is scheduled to be held with the participation of Iranian and foreign investors in Pardis Technology Park on February 27 and 28.

Start-up investors, knowledge-based companies, and universities will take part in this event, he added.

Stating that the event is aimed at attracting investment, Sadrkhanlou

stressed that the Islamic countries that are members of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation participated in the past 4 TIM events. The TIM 5 will be held with differences, which is the presence of other countries outside the D8, he continued.

Sadrkhanlou also added that over a hundred knowledge-based companies, start-ups, investors, etc have registered for the event from Iran, Turkey, Armenia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Kenya, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Syria, and Guinea.

Delegations from Mongolia, China, Ukraine, and Canada will also be present at this event virtually, according to him.

Software and information technology, medicine and medical equipment, mining and energy, as well as creative industries, are among the fields that start-ups can present their ideas about during the meeting.

Agreement for More Support to Female Breadwinners of Families



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Vice-President for Women and Family Affairs, Ms. Ensieh Khazali, during her visit to the exhibition on the capabilities of Etko Organization said that the vice-presidency on women and family affairs and Etko Organization reached an agreement as it was decided to support more from the female breadwinners of families and to pack and sell their products with appropriate brands in the store chains of Etko.

After visiting different pavilions in the exhibition, Khazali said that she feels proud that the country has been able to achieve such successes and become self-sufficient in different food and electronic industries.

She stated she hopes these progresses would continue and to cover all sectors in the country and the related knowhow and services would expand in the whole country.

Khazali further said that she hopes women of the country can take advantage of these services and to have the female breadwinners of the families under cover.

She noted that each pavilion had its own attraction but agro and livestock ones which have direct impact on the health and self-sufficiency was more important.

She also pointed to the e-services and said that e-services will save time and people will need no in-person involvement for their businesses or services and therefore e-services and online sales are very necessary.

Khazali then hailed Etko Organization for such a progress for competing with the foreign producers in the shortest time possible and reiterated that the most important issue is the pace of progress and that the organization despite sanctions and in shortest time have taken effective actions to thwart sanctions and to leap in production is very important.

Dutch F-35s Intercept 3 Russian Military Aircraft



WARSAW (Dispatches) - Two Dutch F-35 fighters intercepted a formation of three Russian military aircraft near Poland and escorted them out, the Netherlands' defense ministry said in a statement.

"The then unknown aircraft approached the Polish NATO area of responsibility from Kaliningrad," according to Reuters' translation of the ministry's statement.

Kaliningrad is a Russian Baltic coast enclave located between NATO and European Union members Poland and Lithuania. "After identification, it turned out to be three aircraft: a Russian IL-20M Coot-A that was escorted by two Su-27 Flankers. The Dutch F-35s escorted the formation from a distance and handed over the escort to NATO partners."

Moldova Briefly Shuts Airspace



CHISINAU (Dispatches) - Moldova briefly closed its air space to investigate reports of a balloon-like object in the sky, a day after the small east European country accused Russia of plotting to bring down its government.

Russia denied the accusation by President Maia Sandu, who has repeatedly expressed concern about Russia's intentions towards the former Soviet republic since Moscow invaded Ukraine in February 2022.

Moldova's civil aviation authority said it acted after receiving a defence ministry report that a small object resembling a weather balloon had been seen over the north of the country, close to the border with Ukraine.

Sweden, Finland Joining NATO Together Not Main Question



BRUSSELS (Dispatches) - NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg raised the possibility for the first time of Finland joining NATO without Sweden, saying ratifying the two at the same time was not the "main question".

Parliaments in all 30 members of the military alliance must formally ratify Finland and Sweden before they can be admitted. Turkey and Hungary are the only two NATO members not to have done this.

Turkey has suggested it could greenlight Finland's bid to join without accepting Sweden into the alliance.

"So the main question is not whether Finland and Sweden are ratified together. The main question is that they are both ratified as full members as soon as possible," Stoltenberg said ahead of a meeting of NATO allies.

"I'm confident that both will be full members and we are working hard to get both ratified as soon as possible," the NATO secretary general added.

Meanwhile, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said during a visit to Stockholm on Tuesday that the two countries should be admitted before NATO's summit in July in Vilnius.

"Sweden and Finland fulfil the conditions that we have agreed upon in Madrid so it is very important for NATO as a whole that Sweden and Finland can join before the next summit", she told reporters.

Leaders from the two Nordic countries have insisted on their desire to join together.

But a majority of Finns said in a poll this month that they wanted to go ahead and join NATO if Sweden's membership was delayed.

Joining separately would be "unfortunate", Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson said Tuesday.

"But I have respect for Finland, I know what Finland wants. And only Turkey makes decisions for Turkey", he told reporters.

Finland, which shares a long border with Russia, and Sweden dropped decades of military non-alignment and applied to join NATO in May last year in response to Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

Turkey has so far refused to ratify the two countries' membership bids, primarily because of Sweden's refusal to extradite dozens of suspects that Ankara links to outlawed Kurdish fighters and a failed 2016 coup attempt.

Ankara reacted with fury to a decision by the Swedish police to allow a protest at which a far-right extremist burned a copy of the Koran outside the Turkish embassy in Stockholm last month.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has drawn a clear distinction between the positions taken by Sweden and Finland in the past few months and said "we can give a different response" to Helsinki.

Turkey's legislative and presidential elections in May could delay the ratification process.

Last week's devastating quakes in Turkey and Syria could, however, see the elections postponed.

Sweden and Finland are already heavily integrated into NATO thanks to their status as invited members.

They have also received security guarantees from a number of member states, including the US and Britain, pending their full membership.

European Powers Strongly Denounce Israel Settlements



BRUSSELS (Dispatches) - The foreign ministers of five Western powers say they are "deeply troubled" by the far-right Israeli government's decision to push ahead with the construction of thousands of settlement units in the occupied West Bank.

Ministers from the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Italy on Tuesday followed the United States in denouncing the planned expansion.

"We strongly oppose these unilateral actions, which will only serve to exacerbate tensions between Israelis and Palestinians and undermine efforts to achieve a negotiated two-state solution," they said in a joint statement.

"We continue to support a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the Middle East, which must be achieved through direct negotiations between the parties."

Norwegian Foreign Minister Anniken Huitfeldt condemned Israel's plans on Tuesday.

"The Israeli settlement policy on occupied land is contrary to international law and must be stopped," Huitfeldt told Norwegian news agency NTB.

The Israeli settlement plans have also drawn condemnation from Israel's Arab neighbours Jordan, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia.

Israel's hardline Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir said on Tuesday that he wanted to see more Jewish settlements. "The land of Israel belongs to the people of Israel," he said in a video message.

On Sunday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's cabinet unanimously authorised the legalisation of nine settlement outposts and said it would soon approve additional construction in existing settlements.

Israel's Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich said about 10,000 new homes are to be approved.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Monday that he was "deeply troubled" by the Israeli decision, but gave no indication the US would take action against Israel.

Smotrich responded to Blinken's rebuke by saying his government "clarified our position to the Americans" and "disagreements are allowed, even between friends".

3 Killed in Michigan University Shooting

MICHIGAN (Dispatches) - A gunman has fatally shot three people at Michigan State University in the United States and wounded five others before killing himself.

The attacker opened fire on Monday night at an academic building - Berkey Hall - and a nearby student union at the East Lansing campus, according to Chris Rozman, interim deputy chief of the campus police department.

Two of the victims were killed in Berkey Hall and a third was killed in the student union, Rozman said.

Police said that the gunman fatally shot himself off-campus later. The wounded were all listed in critical condition early on Tuesday.

His motive behind the attack was not immediately clear, although Rozman said the 43-year-old man had no known affiliation with the university. His identity was not immediately released.

"This truly has been a nightmare we're living tonight," said Rozman. "We have no idea why he came to campus to do this tonight."

Hundreds of officers had scoured the East Lansing campus, about 145km (90 miles) northwest of Detroit, for the suspect, whom police had initially described as a Black man with red shoes, a jean jacket and a cap.

Students were ordered to shelter in place for hours at the campus, which serves about 50,000 students. It was not clear what kind of firearm the gunman used in the attack.

Ted Zimbo, a student at the university, told The Associated Press he was walking to his residence hall when he encountered a woman with a "tonne of blood on her".

"She told me 'someone came in our classroom and started shooting,'" Zimbo said. "Her hands were completely covered in blood. It was on her trousers and her shoes. She said 'it's my friend's blood'."

Aedan Kelley, a junior who lives close to the campus, also told the news agency he locked his doors and covered his windows "just in case".

Nikki Haley Takes on Trump for 2024 U.S. Republican Nomination

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley kicked off her campaign for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination, a tough challenge as her former boss Donald Trump holds a strong lead in a new Reuters/Ipsos poll.

"I'm Nikki Haley and I'm running for president," Haley said in a video that her team sent out by email as she joined Trump as the only announced 2024 candidates.

Haley, a former South Carolina governor who served as the U.N. ambassador under Trump from 2017 to 2018, is set to lay out her campaign plans in a speech on Wednesday in Charleston, South Carolina.

The daughter of two Indian immigrants who ran a successful clothing store in a rural part of South Carolina, Haley, 51, has gained a reputation in the Republican Party as a solid conservative who has the ability to address issues of gender and race in a more credible fashion than many of her peers.

Launching her candidacy more than 20 months ahead of the November 2024 election gives Haley more of a chance to draw attention and raise funds before the Republican field grows in the coming weeks and months. But it also makes her an early target of the combative Trump.

A Reuters/Ipsos poll released on Tuesday that found that 4% of registered Republicans supported Haley. Trump received support from 43% of registered Republicans in the poll conducted from Feb. 6-13,

while 31% said they supported Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, who is expected to launch a campaign but has not yet done so.

Other high-profile Republicans looking at a 2024 run include former Vice President Mike Pence, U.S. Senator Tim Scott of South Carolina, New Hampshire Governor Chris Sununu and former Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson, among others.

"It's time for a new generation of leadership - to rediscover fiscal responsibility, secure our border and strengthen our country, our pride and our purpose," Haley said in her video.

She also harked back to her foreign policy experience with a folksy flair.

"China and Russia are on the march. They all think we can be bullied, kicked. You should know this about me: I don't put up with bullies. And when you kick back, it hurts them more if you're wearing heels," she said.

Trump, 76, has seen his campaign - launched in November - get off to a slow start. On Feb. 2 he mocked Haley on his Truth Social platform, noting she had earlier said she would support Trump if he ran in 2024.

Former South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley announces her run for 2024 U.S. presidential election "Nikki has to follow her heart, not her honor. She should definitely run!" he wrote.

Trump was defeated in his 2020 re-election bid by Democrat Joe Biden. Biden is expected to seek re-election in 2024.



Seven Pulled From Turkey's Rubble, Millions Need Humanitarian Aid

KAHRAMANMARAS (Dispatches)

- Seven survivors were rescued from the rubble in Turkey, more than a week after a devastating earthquake, as the focus of the aid effort shifted to helping people now struggling without shelter or enough food in the bitter cold.

The disaster, with a combined death toll in Turkey and neighboring Syria exceeding 37,000, has ravaged cities in both countries, leaving many survivors homeless in near-freezing winter temperatures.

The seven rescued on Tuesday included two brothers, aged 17 and 21, pulled from an apartment block in Kahramanmaraş province, and a woman rescued from the rubble of a building in the southern Turkish city of Antakya, Turkish media said.

But U.N. authorities have said the rescue phase was coming to a close, with the focus turning to shelter, food and schooling, as those who survived were struggling.

"People are suffering a lot. We applied to receive tent, aid or something but until now we didn't receive anything," said Hassan Saimoua, a refugee staying with his family in a playground in Turkey's southeastern city of Gaziantep.

Saimoua and other Syrians who had found refuge in Gaziantep from the war at home but were made homeless by the quake used plastic sheets, blankets and cardboard to erect makeshift tents in the playground.

"The needs are huge, increasing by the hour," said Hans Henri P. Kluge, the World Health Organization's director for Europe. "Some 26 million people across both countries need humanitarian assistance."

"There are also growing concerns over emerging health issues linked to the cold weather, hygiene and sanitation, and the spread of infectious diseases - with vulnerable people especially at risk."

At a Turkish field hospital in the southern city of Iskenderun, Indian Army Major Beena Tiwari said patients initially reported physical injuries but that was changing.

"Now more of the patients are coming with post-traumatic stress disorder, following all the shock that they've gone through during the earthquake," she said.

In Aleppo as well, a former frontline in Syria's war, families who had to leave their homes are now dealing with the psychological aftermath of the quake.

"Whenever he forgets, he hears a loud sound and then remembers again," Hassan Moaz said of his nine-year-old. "When he's sleeping at night and hears a sound, he wakes up and tells me: Dad, aftershock!"

In China, Tesla Could Win Electric Vehicle Price Battle – But Lose the War

SHANGHAI (Dispatches) - Slashed prices have given Tesla's China sales a pop, but analysts, and even fans, warn the U.S. automaker needs to up its long-term game to avoid choking on the dust of fast-moving rivals in the world's biggest electric vehicle market.

Most immediately, Tesla's January price cuts drove deliveries of its China-made vehicles up 18% from December. Tesla's thick profit margins have put it in a position to take a price war to competitors in China and beyond, analysts say.

But they say Tesla has lagged competitors in China in introducing new models, improving navigation systems and adding luxury interior touches or white-glove customer service to serve the developing range of consumer preferences for EVs.

"Tesla's facing a serious problem of a very limited product mix," said Cui Dongshu, secretary general of China Passenger Car Association (CPCA). "Its slowness to respond to Chinese consumers' preferences has led to a very passive positioning for Tesla to rely on few means such as price cuts to stay competitive."

Even Tesla Chief Executive Elon Musk himself has conceded that China is where his firm could face its toughest competition.

Tesla did not respond to Reuters' request for comment on its China business. Grace Tao, Tesla's vice president in charge of external communications in China, said previously the price cuts in China reflected engineering innovation and answered Beijing's call to encourage economic development and consumption.

China's Association of Automobile Manufacturers expects sales of EVs and plug-in hybrids to surge by 35% in 2023 to 9 million vehicles - nearly a third of China's total new vehicle sales.

While Tesla has increased sales in China, its second-largest market, it has also lost share. From 15% in 2020, its share of the China EV market fell by a third to just 10% in 2022, according to data from the CPCA.



Tesla offers two models in China, the Model 3 sedan and the Model Y crossover. That keep-it-simple approach has driven scale and driven down costs.

After the latest price cuts, the Model 3 starts at about \$34,000 and the Model Y at \$38,000. But Chinese car shoppers, back out in showrooms this year after the end of China's tough COVID-19 curbs, are being courted by competitors offering a broad range of alternatives.

BYD, which overtook Tesla by global sales volume last year and has a market value well over \$100 billion, offers more than 60 different versions of EV and plug-in hybrid cars. Much smaller but ambitious peer Nio has gone from two models to six over the same period and plans to launch five more this year.

"The aging product line is a real problem for Tesla," said Yale Zhang, managing director at Shanghai-based consultancy Automotive Foresight. "Once BYD and other EV startups follow to lower prices, the effect of Tesla's price

cuts could vanish in the blink of an eye."

Tesla's self-driving software and navigation systems, touted by CEO Musk as competitive strengths, have also come under criticism from customers about slow updates and errors on Chinese roads. Luxury EV buyers who employ drivers are less interested in paying more for the software.

Chang Yan, a 34-year-old Chinese auto blogger, who was among Model 3 buyers in China in 2018, said his car still asks him to make U-turns on strictly guarded Chang'an Avenue near Tiananmen Square, where

such moves are banned.

"This is a sharp contrast with Nio, Xpeng and Li Auto, whose navigation aids have been working almost perfectly," said Chang, who also drives a Nio sedan.

Tesla has been considering a shift in its marketing in China, focusing more on energy efficiency, practical features and less on cutting-edge functionality, a person with knowledge of the matter said.

It has also been studying how its Chinese rivals, led by BYD, win over customers in showrooms, especially in smaller cities, the person said, declining to be identified citing lack of authorisation to speak to media.

Aerospace Suppliers Face Competition for Hires From Planemakers

SEATTLE (Dispatches) - Aerospace suppliers are gearing up for a hiring spree in 2023 but could face stiff competition for skilled laborers, including from their top customers - planemakers Boeing and Airbus.

The tight labor market is a key factor in the industry's supply-chain shortages, and could determine whether Boeing and Airbus meet near-term production goals, industry officials said.

Executives at last week's Pacific Northwest Aerospace Alliance conference, a gathering of top suppliers, expressed concern about replacing workers who left through layoffs or attrition during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We just had massive, massive hiring problems in 2021 and 2022," said Chris Celtruda, chief executive of Valence Surface Technologies, which provides metal finishing and specialty coating services to Boeing and Airbus.

While staffing has "definitely gotten better," Celtruda noted small companies in Washington state that make up Boeing's supply chain will have to compete with Boeing itself, which announced plans to hire 10,000 workers in 2023 and add a fourth 737 MAX line in Everett in mid-2024.

Boeing CEO Dave Calhoun said in January that the planemaker's production rate would hinge on suppliers' ability to find trained labor.

The workforce at Orion, a subassembly manufacturer that laid off half its workforce in 2020, grew by 17% in 2022 and it plans to expand by another 33% in 2023, CEO Jerry Chase said. That means adding 30 jobs "while everybody else is trying to recruit people." But he also worries about hiring too soon, risking workers sitting around if supply-chain problems persist.

Since the pandemic, the aerospace supply chain has been hobbled by shortages in castings and forgings — particularly for aircraft engines — as well as a recent scarcity in extrusions, or other molded parts that can have lead times of up to 80 weeks, said Kevin Michaels, managing director of consultancy AeroDynamic Advisory.



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



Ford to Cut 3,800 Jobs in Europe

PARIS (Dispatches) - U.S. automaker Ford said today it would cut 3,800 jobs in Europe, mostly in Britain and Germany, as competition in the electric car sector intensifies.

The company said 2,300 positions in product development and administrative functions would be slashed in Germany, 1,300 in Britain and another 200 elsewhere in Europe over the next three years.

"These are difficult decisions, not taken lightly," said Martin Sander, general manager of Ford Model e in Europe. "We recognize the uncertainty it creates for our team, and I assure them we will be offering them our full support in the months ahead," Sander said.

The company said the decision was aimed at revitalizing its business in Europe and competing profitably with a new line-up of passenger vehicles.



U.S. Inflation Eases in January

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Rising rent and a gasoline price rebound helped keep U.S. consumer prices elevated in January, according to government data released today, with the slight easing signaling that policymakers' battle is not over.

The U.S. central bank has hiked interest rates rapidly in the past year to raise borrowing costs and cool demand in the world's biggest economy, as inflation skyrocketed.

But even as the consumer price index (CPI), an important inflation gauge, eases from last year's decades-high levels, the numbers point to some stickier areas.

With the effects of policy rippling through the economy, the CPI rose 6.4 per cent in January from a year ago, according to Labor Department data. This was a touch below December's figure and the smallest annual increase since October 2021.

But it remains significantly above policymakers' two percent target.

From December to January, CPI rose 0.5 per cent, picking up from 0.1 per cent in December and signalling the Fed has some way to go to rein in costs.

"The index for shelter was by far the largest contributor... accounting for nearly half of the monthly all items increase," according to the report.

The indexes for food and gasoline also contributed, the report added.

Excluding the volatile food and energy components, the so-called core CPI rose 5.6 percent from January 2022, also the smallest increase in around a year.

The annual changes in overall inflation and services inflation excluding volatile components and housing "showed only modest improvement," said Rubeela Farooqi, chief U.S. economist at High Frequency Economics.

"For Fed officials, a slow grind down in inflation only supports the higher-for-longer view on interest rates," she warned.

While overall prices have been slowing, the easing in core inflation has been more uneven, Farooqi earlier noted.

Prices of goods have eased as supply chains untangle but a strong labour market supports incomes and, in turn, demand.

The core figure has been fluctuating in the past months, falling to 5.9 per cent in June before rising to 6.6 percent in September and slipping again.

"You don't want to make too much out of a single month. It's like making a mountain out of an ant hill," warned Ryan Sweet of Oxford Economics. He noted that supply chain stress and energy prices can move the needle on monthly CPI.

"Some stickier components are what we'll be paying more attention to, for example rents," he told AFP.

He believes that rental costs "won't peak until the second half of this year," while wage growth remains robust and there is still pent-up demand for services spending.

"During the pandemic, people shifted their spending away from services because they couldn't go out to restaurants, bars, sporting events," he said.

With Covid-19 restrictions easing, people are now turning back to services, which make up the bulk of consumer spending, Sweet said.

While goods inflation will continue in the coming months, it will take a significant amount to offset services inflation that is in the pipeline.

Russia Diverts Diesel Exports After EU Embargo to Africa, Asia and STS

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russia has diverted its diesel export supplies to Africa and Asia, as well for ship-to-ship (STS) loadings in February, as embargo closed the European markets for Russian-origin fuel, according to traders and Refinitiv data.

Russia has long been the main diesel supplier for Europe, where refineries do not produce enough fuel to meet domestic demand from its large diesel car fleet.

A full EU embargo on Russian oil products went into effect on Feb. 5.

According to Refinitiv shipping data, the main bulk of low-sulphur diesel and gasoil cargoes from the Russian Black Sea ports Tuapse and Novorossiisk are heading towards Turkey, as well as to Oman, Togo and Tunisia.

Russian Black Sea ports enjoyed Turkey's market proximity for diesel supplies even before, while exporters from Baltic port Primorsk and Vysotsk had to replace European destinations with much longer trips, boosting the freight cost.

"Ship owners are probably the main beneficiaries of all this situation owing to the long routes and high freight rates", one trader said.

Since the start of February Russia diverts low-sulphur diesel volumes from its Baltic ports to Morocco, Algeria, Ghana, Tunisia and Brazil.

Also two cargoes carrying about 130,000 of diesel are heading from the port of Primorsk to the port of Jeddah in Saudi Arabia, Refinitiv data showed.

Some cargoes were destined with sort of opaque nomination like "Gibraltar on order", "Ceuta on order" or even just "on order", according to Refinitiv shipping data. Traders consider such nominations either having no buyer or booked for discharging to another ship.

European countries replace Russian diesel supplies increasing imports from India, Saudi Arabia, China, Kuwait, Malaysia and even Togo, Refinitiv data showed.



Air India Seals Record Order for Almost 500 Airbus, Boeing Jets

BENGALURU (Dispatches) - Air India unveiled deals for a record 470 jets from Airbus and Boeing, accelerating the rebirth of a national emblem under new owners Tata Group as Europe and the United States hailed deepening economic and political ties with New Delhi.

The provisional deals include 220 planes from Boeing and 250 from Airbus and eclipse previous records for a single airline as Air India vies with domestic giant IndiGo to serve what will soon be the world's largest population.

The Airbus order includes 210 A320neo narrowbody planes and 40 A350 widebody aircraft, which Air India will use to fly "ultra-long routes", Tata Chairman N Chandrasekaran said.

Boeing will supply 190 737 MAX, 20 of its 787 Dreamliners and 10 mini-jumbo 777X.

Together with another 25 Airbus jets to be leased to meet immediate needs, the overall acquisition reaches 495 jets, an Airbus executive said.

Reuters exclusively reported in December that Air India was nearing record airplane orders approaching 500 jets.

The airline's renaissance under the Tata conglomerate aims to capitalize on India's growing base of fliers and large diaspora across the world.

New CEO Campbell Wilson, is working to revive its reputation as a world-class airline and shake off its image as a tardy, run-down operation with an ageing fleet and poor service.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron highlighted the political and economic importance of a deal involving India's former flag bearer.

"This important deal shows, along with the deepening of relations between India and France, the successes and aspirations of the civil aviation sector in India," Modi said.

"This achievement shows that Airbus and all its French partners are fully dedicated to develop new areas of dedication with India," Macron said during a video presentation.

The aviation deal is expected to have industrial spin-offs, with Macron pledging France will work with India in other sectors.

Chandrasekaran said Airbus and Tata were working on bigger partnerships, including an ambition "to bring in commercial aircraft manufacturing at some point in time in the future".

Industry sources say India has repeatedly lobbied for Airbus to add a final assembly line in the country, matching a plant in northern China, but that the planemaker has so far rejected the idea on financial and industrial grounds.

Air India's order tops American Airlines' combined deal for 460 Airbus and Boeing planes more than a decade ago.

Even after significant expected discounts, the deal would be worth tens of billions of dollars at a volatile time for plane giants whose jets are again in demand after the pandemic, but who face mounting industrial and environmental pressures.

"It is important for the industry because given the recent turbulence in the China market, the alternative growth market is India," said independent aviation adviser Bertrand Grabowski.

"India is also sending a strong political signal that it wants to remain attached to the West at a time when it has appeared ambiguous on Russian sanctions," said Grabowski, a former banker with extensive experience of financing international aviation deals.

UK Unemployment Stable, Inflation Hits Wages Again



LONDON (Dispatches) - British unemployment held close to its historical low but wages continue to be outstripped by rampant inflation, official data showed.

The unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.7% in the three months to the end of December compared with the three months to the end of November, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said.

Wages excluding bonuses rose 6.7% in the same period - but sank 2.5% when inflation is taken into account.

"Overall pay ... continues to be outstripped by rising prices," said ONS economic statistics director Darren Morgan.

In recent months, strikes have multiplied across Britain - particularly in the communication, education, transport and health sectors - as workers protest at pay that has fallen in value.

A total of 843,000 working days were lost to walkouts in December, which was the highest since November 2011, the ONS added on Tuesday.

The news comes on the eve of official U.K. inflation data for January.

Inflation had slowed slightly to 10.5% in December.

However, the rate remains close to a four-decade high, propelled by surging energy bills after key gas producer Russia invaded Ukraine almost one year ago.

Britain's economy narrowly avoided recession with zero growth in the fourth quarter, recent data showed.

But finance minister Jeremy Hunt has warned it is "not out of the woods yet," particularly where inflation is concerned.

Japan GDP Rebounds Less Than Expected in Fourth Quarter

TOKYO (Dispatches) - Japan's economy expanded just 0.2 per cent in the last quarter of 2022, a smaller rebound than expected despite the long-awaited reopening of the country to tourists, government data showed.

The figure for the three months to December fell short of the 0.5 per cent growth forecast by analysts surveyed by Bloomberg, with the world's third-largest economy growing 1.1 per cent for the calendar year.

Japan reopened its doors to tourists in October after two-and-a-half years of tough Covid-19 restrictions, lifting a cap on the number of arrivals and ending a rule requiring visitors to come on package tours.

In 2019, a record 31.9 million foreign visitors came to Japan, putting the country on track for its goal of 40 million by 2020, when Tokyo was supposed to host the Summer Olympics.

But in 2021, the figure plummeted to just 250,000.

"Japan saw moderate growth in Q4 2022," Hiroyuki Ueno, senior economist at SuMi TRUST, said in a note before the data was released.

"Consumer services benefitted from an increase in domestic travel and a rise in inbound tourists," he wrote.

"Exports were resilient, reflecting the easing of supply constraints on automotive-related goods and moves to restore inventories overseas." A cheaper yen in the last year may have encouraged foreign visitors to spend more in Japan, though it has also weighed on the spending power of Japanese households and the bottom line of some firms.

"Enterprises dependent on domestic demand enjoyed cheap imports and could reduce costs," wrote Ueno.

"However, export industries did not fare as well. Overall, a strong yen is still negative for the Japanese economy as a whole but not to the extent it was in previous decades."

Malaysia Poised to Become Major Regional Logistics Hub

KUALA LUMPUR (Dispatches) - Malaysia can position itself as a regional logistics hub as the industry is recognized as essential to stimulating trade, facilitating business efficiency and spurring economic growth.

Logistics in Malaysia has evolved in recent years, underpinned by strong growth enablers such as improved infrastructure, rising freight volumes and structural growth in e-commerce. The logistics industry is also the backbone of Malaysia's supply chain ecosystem.

While the current market landscape is still fragmented with a large number of players across the value chain, market consolidation

is expected with two broad categories of logistics providers emerging - large integrated logistics players that capitalize on their scale and reach and niche market players.

The Transport Ministry has formulated the National Transport Policy (2019-2030) to improve logistics connectivity to cater to the e-commerce boom, continuous ports upgrade and expansion plans, and enhance productivity and increase competitiveness.

Being the world's 24th largest trading nation in 2021, logistics plays an integral role to enable Malaysia's supply chain growth, and with the rise of e-commerce, companies are capitalising on this emerging trend.

Companies' interest in emerging areas, such as cold chain logistics, last-mile delivery services and so on is growing, due to high margins and rising demand.

In this vein, the Malaysian government has laid out various efforts and plans to assist local players to move up their value chain to increase their global competitiveness.

A government initiative to promote logistics industry growth is the international integrated logistics services (IILS) status. It is granted to companies capable of providing integrated and seamless logistics services door-to-door along the value chain as a single entity on a regional or global scale.

The IILS status does not impose any equity restrictions and encourages foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows into Malaysia through direct establishment or collaboration with local players.

Malaysian Investment Development Authority (Mida) services development executive director Zuaida Abdullah said initiatives such as the integrated logistics services (ILS) incentive and IILS status are seen as stepping stones for local companies to provide comprehensive services to further expand their market, serving both domestic and global markets.

Iran Exporting Helicopter Pieces to Friendly, Allied States

TEHRAN (MNA) – Saying that Iran overcame the sanctions successfully, the Head of the Iran Aviation Industries Organization (IAIO) said that Iran exports the required pieces for producing helicopters to other friendly and allied countries. Second Brigadier General Afshin Khajeh Fard said that Iran enjoys one of the most diverse helicopter fleets in the world, having a variety of eastern, western, and European helicopters.

Saying that Iran is not dependent on foreign countries in this field, Khajeh Fard noted, “Fortunately, we have overcome the sanctions and today we also export and provide engineering services to other friendly and allied countries.” “For many years, Iran Aviation Industries Organization, in cooperation with knowledge-based companies, has been able to produce the required pieces equal to global standards for producing all kinds of helicopters,” he added.



Airbus Roiled by Poor Start to 2023 as Industrial Pressure Grows

PARIS (Dispatches) - The boss of European planemaker Airbus has read the riot act to executives about disappointing deliveries in January and warned them that in 2023 Airbus cannot deliver fewer jets than its now-abandoned target for 2022, industry sources said. Until now, Airbus has blamed mounting delays on suppliers led by engine makers. But the structure, operational controls and performance inside Airbus are increasingly in the spotlight as several suppliers predict more aircraft delays, they said. Angered by the abrupt emergence of the last set of delays in late 2022, which derailed 2022 delivery targets, Chief Executive Guillaume Faury told managers last month’s 33% drop in deliveries to 20 jets was another “wake-up call”, they said. “He made it clear this cannot happen twice,” said one person briefed on the remarks in a Feb. 8 executive webcast. Another described the usually measured French engineer as “furious”. Airbus declined to comment on internal meetings. Shares in the planemaker were up about 1.6% in late trading. The showdown came amid supplier speculation of a possible new wave of delays from Airbus after a first round in mid-2022 prompted it to cut its 2022 delivery goal to 700 jets from 720, followed by the November setback which saw the goal abandoned. All eyes are on Feb. 16 earnings when the world’s largest jetmaker is expected to outline cautious 2023 targets. So far, sources have said they expect a delivery goal not far above the original 720 for 2022, though Faury’s remarks do not exclude a pain threshold as low as 700.

Many analysts nonetheless expect a goal closer to 750, up from 661 in 2022. The first major test will be the first quarter for which suppliers say Airbus seeks close to 140 deliveries. After a weak January, that requires a steeper curve than in recent years. Facing markets during that quarter may be an interim finance chief as Airbus struggles to agree a permanent one - a politically sensitive topic which, along with a legal feud with Qatar, has distracted attention from day-to-day operations. Analysts say Faury will want to avoid spooking investors while insuring against the risk of more downgrades to guidance on deliveries from setting expectations too high. Airbus wants to understand any risks to guidance much earlier, by mid-year. Airbus declined any comment on numbers ahead of earnings. Its output woes have marred what should have been a celebration of resurgent demand with a record Air India order. It is producing 45 best-selling A320neo-family jets a month and is expected to seek rates of 65 by end-2024 and 75 in 2026 - months later than previously planned. With more potential delays in the pipeline, some suppliers say even that looks ambitious. On larger A350s, Faury said in October Airbus would lift monthly output to six from five in early 2023 and then explore more. But industry sources said Airbus throttled back to 4.5 a month in late 2022 and is now producing 5.6 on its way to six a month in 2024, where it may stay through 2025. While Airbus shapes 2023, the fortunes of 12,000 suppliers remain mixed. There has been an improvement in supplies of electronic chips as well as computers for production tests.

Time to Uprise... FROM PAGE 1

The so-called permits are almost impossible to obtain. Israel sometimes orders Palestinian owners to demolish their own houses or pay the costs of the demolition. During the ensuing confrontations, the heavily-armed Israeli forces opened fire on local youths, injuring more than two dozen by rubber-coated steel bullets. Several Palestinians suffered asphyxiation as a result of inhaling tear gas used by Israeli forces. The Tel Aviv regime plans to force out Palestinian families from the Sheikh Jarrah and several other neighborhoods of East al-Quds in an attempt to replace them with settlers. Palestinian media, citing local sources, reported that Israeli troops launched an arrest campaign with raids and attacks in various parts of the occupied territories overnight and at dawn on Monday. They abducted a mother along with her son after ransacking their family house in Silwad town, east of Ramallah. Another Palestinian man was forcibly detained after Israeli soldiers broke into a house in al-Mazra'a al-Gharbiya village in the same area.



In Nablus, regime troops detained six Palestinians. The assault resulted in the killing of one Palestinian and injuring seven others. In Jenin, Israeli troops stormed the town of Jaba, where they detained a Palestinian man and ransacked several houses. A Palestinian was also detained in Dheisheh refugee camp, located just south of Bethlehem. So we see any delay against these crimes will be in favor of the Zionists who are supported by the West and continue the bloodshed against the Palestinians. Such conferences should find practical solutions in stopping the Zionist regime otherwise they will be time waste and will help the Zionists to continue what they wish without getting any due response. As the holy month of Ramadhan and Quds Day is approaching, it is time for Muslims to take decisive action to tame the savage Zionist regime otherwise it will continue laughing at Palestinians and Muslims worldwide with killing many more Palestinians. By the way on Monday, a panel of United Nations experts called on the international community to take action to stop systematic housing demolition, arbitrary displacement and forced evictions of Palestinian people in the occupied West Bank.

Palestine’s official Wafa news agency cited the experts as making the plea in a statement on Monday, after media reports said the Israeli regime demolished 132 Palestinian structures across 38 communities in the occupied West Bank in January 2023, a 135-percent increase compared to the same period in 2022. “The systematic demolition of Palestinian homes, erection of illegal Israeli settlements and systematic denial of building permits for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank amounts to ‘domicide’,” the statement said. The experts reiterated their concern over the situation in Masafer Yatta area, where over 1,100 Palestinian residents remain at imminent risk of forced eviction, arbitrary displacement and demolitions of their homes, livelihood, water and sanitation structures. “Direct attacks on the Palestinian people’s homes, schools, livelihoods and water sources are nothing but Israel’s attempts to curtail the Palestinians’ right to self-determination and to threaten their very existence,” the experts said. “Israel’s tactics of forcibly displacing and evicting the Palestinian population appear to have no limits. In occupied East al-Quds, tens of Palestinian families also face imminent risks of forced evictions and displacement, due to discriminatory zoning and planning regimes that favor Israeli settlement expansion – the act that is illegal under international law and amounts to a war crime,” they said.

It is really strange that the UN despite such reports by its own experts remains passive in taking proper action against the Zionists and it seems this international body lacks enough guts to take action against Israel because of the West’s pressure as we know the U.S. and the West fund majority of budget of the UN. So Palestinians and Muslims nations are advised to resort to intifada and uprising against ruthless Zionist regime or else wait and see the murder of the Palestinians one after the other by the hands of this savage regime.

Iran-Iraq Solidarity Makes Enemies Grieve

MASHHAD (IRNA) - Deputy interior minister said here Iran-Iraq solidarity and strong comprehensive relations make the enemies of both countries grieve. The two-day Iran-Iraq Joint Security Meeting headed by both countries’ high-ranking delegations began in Mashhad on Tuesday evening. The head of the Iranian delegation is Seyyed Majid Mir-Ahmadi, deputy interior minister for security and disciplinary affairs and the head of the Iraqi delegation is Mahdi-Ali Hadi al-Fukaiki, deputy consultant interior minister and head of Arabaean Headquarters of that country. Speaking on the sidelines of the security meeting, the Iranian deputy interior minister said, “Solidarity of Iran and Iraq and our countries’ strong comprehensive relations and cooperation make the enemies of both countries grieve, and that is the reason why the emergence of the slightest problems between the two countries is highly aggrandized by their media.” Seyyed Majid Mir-Ahmadi added that despite the will of the enemies, the two countries’ relations are quite close and intimate, and even further expand with the passage of each new day. “Close security cooperation between Iran and Iraq is a sample, and it can be claimed that our two countries have almost never had and will never have any unresolved problem,” he said. The Iraqi consultant interior minister, too, told IRNA that each country has its own particular problems and in the atmosphere of mutual cooperation “we will be witnesses to decreased problems”, and therefore, holding these meetings must continue, because there are some problems which cannot be resolved so easily and right now in this meeting. Mahdi-Ali Hadi al-Fukaiki added, “Iran and Iraq have over 3,000 kilometers of share borders and love and friendship between the two countries is sustainable.” He said that last year a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was prepared and good results were achieved and this year, too, in this two-day meeting miscellaneous issues in border guards’ field, residence of university students and patients, and the Arabaean rally of Imam Hossein (AS) will be reviewed.

UN Experts Say U.S. Sanctions on Iran Illegal

TEHRAN (IFP) - Washington’s sanctions against Tehran and their enforcement in third countries clash with international law, the UN Human Rights Council stated, citing the findings of two special rapporteurs concerning Iranians suffering from thalassemia. “The legality of the U.S. unilateral sanctions against Iran is doubtful under international law, and so is the legality of their extraterritorial enforcement,” Alena Douhan and Obiora Okafor said in a statement. “Still companies outside the U.S. feel obliged to comply to avoid facing legal or business repercussions,” they added. Douhan is the special rapporteur on the negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, while Okafor is an independent expert on human rights and international solidarity. They looked into the ways the U.S. embargo – imposed unilaterally in 2018 after Washington reneged on the 2015 nuclear deal – has affected Iranians suffering from thalassemia, a hereditary blood disorder. Iran has a “particularly high number” of patients with thalassemia, who require specialized medication during blood transfusions. They are manufactured by the Swiss company Novartis, with components sourced from the French company Roquette Freres, but were “denied to Iran” due to “fear in medical, delivery and insurance business sectors,” the experts stressed. “The humanitarian exemptions for medical goods in U.S. sanctions regulations are complex and unclear,” Douhan and Okafor stated, while Washington imposes high fines on companies selling medication to Iran, which leads to their “over-compliance.” Even when a delivery is authorized, “producers, shippers, insurers, or banks” are reluctant to do business with Iran fearing “aggressive U.S. sanctions enforcement and penalties,” they noted. This has led to “fear, pain and premature death” among thalassemia patients. Okafor and Douhan called on the U.S. government to remove any obstacles to financial transactions for medical purposes, effectively implement humanitarian exemptions, and not impose secondary sanctions on medical exports to Iran, while urging other UN members to abide by their human rights obligations.

NIOC... FROM PAGE 1

The investment and business manager of NIOC emphasized that Sinopec has not yet announced in any way that it will not cooperate in the development of the Yadavaran field, and stated, “The officials negotiating with this company at NIOC are looking for new ways to use the investment opportunity I Yadavaran Oilfield.” Stressing that the development of the Yadavaran field is one of the priority projects of NIOC, Kurd Zanganeh said, “The early production plan of the Yadavaran field is in line with the main plan of the Chinese company, and some of my colleagues in the subsidiary companies have had discussions about this field and negotiations with the Chinese side. It should be done with the coordination of the National Iranian Oil Company because the negotiations are going on confidentially at the management levels of the two companies.” He considered the integration of the joint Azadegan field and the development of joint oil fields with Iraq among the axes of the negotiations with Sinopec, and added, “Now, due to the identification of the shareholders of the consortium developing this field, NIOC, as the employer, has requested in our negotiations with this Chinese company to be present as an investor in this field.” The NIOC official further stated, “Last year, Sinopec, which has a history of cooperation with Iran in the first stage of the development of the North Azadegan field, offered to cooperate with us again.” Kurd Zanganeh, referring to the negotiations between NIOC and the administration to use the China-Iran credit line for the development of joint oil fields, added, “In the last negotiations we had with one of the large Chinese companies, this company was willing to invest three to one (one share for Iran, three shares for China) in the Iran LNG project using the China-Iran credit line.” He considered the exchange of crude oil with goods as another focus of the negotiations of the National Iranian Oil Company with Chinese companies, and stated: “In order to buy goods from inside or outside, the standards of the National Iranian Oil Company must be followed, if the desired results are reached in the negotiations, there is no doubt we will tap this capacity to attract capital in the country’s oil industry.”

West's Commitment... FROM PAGE 1

During a meeting with his Iranian counterpart Ebrahim Raisi on Tuesday, Xi said China will continue playing a constructive role in resuming the talks, support the Islamic Republic to safeguard its legitimate rights, and help “the early and proper resolution” of Iran’s nuclear issue. Iran showed to the world the peaceful nature of its nuclear program by signing the JCPOA with six world states — namely the US, Germany, France, Britain, Russia and China — in 2015. But, Washington’s unilateral withdrawal in May 2018 and its subsequent re-imposition of sanctions against Tehran left the future of the deal in limbo. Negotiations between the parties to the deal kicked off in Vienna in April 2021, with the intention of bringing the US back into the deal and putting an end to its “maximum pressure” campaign against Iran.

Iran, Pakistan... FROM PAGE 1

Sistan and Baluchestan Province possesses about 1,600 kilometers of borderlines with Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the Sea of Oman, so the Iranian province is one of the safest and easiest paths that can link Afghanistan and Pakistan to the Middle East, Europe, and Africa. The province also has a special strategic and transit position, which is of great importance, especially due to the fact that Chabahar is the only ocean port in Iran. Zahedan, the capital city of Sistan and Baluchestan Province, is scheduled to be connected to Iran’s national railway, which can play a key role in the development of the western parts of the country.

BRICS to Decide... FROM PAGE 1

While BRICS accounts for 42% of the world’s population, its members have less than 15% of the voting rights in the World Bank and the IMF, according to the Pretoria-based Institute for Security Studies. Originally known as BRIC, after an acronym coined in 2001 by then-Goldman Sachs Group Inc. Chief Economist Jim O’Neill, the bloc was formed in 2009 and South Africa was admitted the following year. It has since tried to forge closer trade relations between members through agreements between their development banks, currency-swap accords and an increase in intra-BRICS trade in local currencies to reduce reliance on the dollar.

Ferrari Unveils New F1 Car With Red Bull in Their Sights

ROME (Dispatches) - Ferrari unveiled their SF-23 car for the upcoming Formula One season at their Maranello headquarters, the Scuderia gunning for Red Bull and world champion Max Verstappen.

The iconic Italian outfit finished second in the drivers and constructors championships last time out after an error-strewn campaign, way behind Red Bull whose top driver Verstappen comfortably retained his title.

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.Marzadaran Blvd., Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Printed by: Honar Sarzmin Sabz

Distributed by:

Cities of Iran Cultural and Artistic Institute

Managing Director: Fereydoon Taherpour Asl

United States Win World Team Parallel Gold

PARIS (Dispatches) - A dramatic startgate hiccup in the final head-to-head race handed the United States gold over Norway in the mixed-sex team parallel event at the World Ski Championships in Meribel.

American Nina O'Brien opened up a 0.13 second advantage after seeing off Kristin Lysdahl, but River Radamus was edged by 0.04sec by Alexander Steen Olsen in the second run in warm, sunny conditions on the Roc de Fer piste.

Bayern, AC Milan Take First Steps Towards Champions League Quarters

PARIS (Dispatches) - Kingsley Coman came back to haunt Paris St Germain again as he earned Bayern Munich a 1-0 win at the Parc des Princes in their Champions League last-16 first leg today.

Born in Paris and raised at PSG, Coman scored the only goal when Bayern beat the French side in the 2020 Champions League final and he was again the sole scorer as the German champions put one foot into the quarter-finals.

PSG, who have now lost five games in all competitions in 2023, held firm in the opening half but were eventually subdued and failed to fight back despite finishing the game with Kylian Mbappe, Neymar and Lionel Messi all on the pitch.

Christophe Galtier's side now face the prospect of a second elimination in a row in the last 16 on March 8 in Munich, although Mbappe's high-octane display as a second-half substitute will have given them hope.

"We played really well in the first 25 minutes and the best team on the night won. It's an important victory but there's a second leg coming," Bayern coach Julian Nagelsmann said.

"We were dominant and aggressive in the beginning. Then they started to find some depth when Mbappe came on."

"We had a tough hour against a team who enjoyed possession and pressed high," said Galtier. "Conceding that goal before Kylian came on was a pity but they deserved to score."

The stadium came to the boil when Mbappe replaced Carlos Soler, raising hopes that the France forward would bail out PSG on his comeback from a two-week injury layoff.

Before that, Eric Choupo-Moting had come close to doubling the tally for Bayern on two occasions, before Gianluigi Donnarumma fully stretched to parry Benjamin Pavard's header in the 64th.

Mbappe had little to offer until the 74th, when he was denied from close range by Yann Sommer and had a goal ruled out for offside.

Meanwhile Brahim Diaz shot AC Milan to a 1-0 win over Tottenham Hotspur today which gave the seven-time European kings control of their Champions League last-16 tie.



Diaz bundled in the only goal of the game in the seventh minute at a packed San Siro to give Milan the advantage before next month's second leg in London.

The Spaniard's strike was the first and one of very few real chances of a scrappy game which highlighted the far from sparkling form of both teams heading into match.

"I'm really happy for the team, because we did great work all week," Diaz told Mediaset.

"We've been through some difficult situations but now we need to look forward... now we need to think about Serie A and then we can think about the game in London."

Milan came into their first knockout in the competition since 2014 with their season in the balance after a horrible run of results in the past month which left their Serie A title defense in tatters.

But the Italians have a decent chance of reaching the quarter-finals for the first time since 2012 after restricting injury-hit Spurs to very little on Antonio Conte's return to Milan.

Conte, in the Spurs dugout two weeks after undergoing gallbladder surgery, handed the midfield reins to youngsters Oliver Skipp and Pape Matar Sarr after losing Rodrigo Bentancur and Yves Bissouma to injury last week.

And his team failed to supply their record scorer Harry Kane with any service, Milan having great chances in quick succession late in the second half to extend their aggregate lead which were fluffed by Charles De Ketelaere and Malick Thiaw.

Kane to Choose Bayern Munich Over Man Utd

LONDON (Dispatches) - A reporter has explained why Tottenham star Harry Kane is likely to sign for Bayern Munich over Manchester United this summer.

Kane has entered the final 18 months of his Tottenham contract. Last month, he broke his silence on his situation, revealing how he expects contract renewal talks to begin towards the end of the season.

The striker also announced that he remains committed to winning trophies with Tottenham. They remain in the Champions League and FA Cup. Although, they were knocked out of the Carabao Cup by Nottingham Forest in the third round.

Man Utd are widely viewed as Kane's most likely next destination, should he decide to leave Spurs for another English club. Paul Merson has told the Red Devils on several occasions that Kane is the right man to lead their attack.

But as per Bild journalist Christian Falk, there is one crucial reason why the England skipper is likely to choose Bayern over Man Utd later this year. He also explained why Spurs are more likely to enter discussions with Bayern than Erik ten Hag's side.

"Bayern also know that Tottenham are not keen on losing Kane to another Premier League club. I've heard that there is a decision about it within the club," Falk said (via German source FCB Inside).

Blazers' Lillard, Knicks' Brunson, Cavs' Mitchell All Score 40 or More

MIAMI (Dispatches) - Nikola Jokic finished with 27 points, 12 rebounds and eight assists, and Denver snapped Miami's eight-game home winning streak by topping the Heat 112-108.

Jokic made 12 of 14 shots, and Denver shot 58%.

Michael Porter Jr. scored 17, Bruce Brown added 16, Jeff Green scored 12 and three Nuggets -- Vlatko Cancar, Christian Braun and Thomas Bryant -- each finished with 10 points.

Jimmy Butler had 24 points, nine assists and eight rebounds for the Heat. Max Strus scored 23, Bam Adebayo had 19, Gabe Vincent 15 and Jamaree Bouyea added 10 for Miami.

Kyrie Irving scored 26 of his 36 points in the fourth quarter in his home debut for Dallas Mavericks as he tried to rally the Mavericks from a 26-point deficit, but the Timberwolves held on for the 124-121 win.

Irving had the highest-scoring fourth quarter of his career. But he made a bad pass after stepping inside the 3-point line on the final possession when Dallas had a chance to tie the game. He had exchanged passes with All-Star teammate Luka Doncic, who finished with 33 points.

Irving and Doncic fell to 0-2 while playing together. Irving has played four games overall for Dallas since being acquired from Brooklyn in a trade.

First-time All-Star guard Anthony Edwards scored 32 points and Rudy Gobert had 21 points and 14 rebounds for the Timberwolves, who had their biggest lead at 89-63 on a long step-back jumper by Edwards midway through the third quarter.

Gobert was 9 of 9 from the field, and Jaden McDaniels was 7 of 8 while scoring 19 points.

Jalen Brunson scored 40 points, Josh Hart added a season-high 27 in his second game with his new team and host New York Knicks snapped a nine-game losing streak against Brooklyn Nets with 124-106 win.

Julius Randle had 18 points and 10 rebounds for the Knicks, who beat the Nets for the first time in three years. Brooklyn never lost to the Knicks when Kevin Durant or Kyrie Irving played.

PSG Plan to Sell Neymar



has often divided opinion throughout the world of football. Neymar has missed several games for PSG over the years due to injury and controversy never seems to be too far away from him.

PARIS (Dispatches) - French champions Paris Saint-Germain want to sell Brazilian superstar Neymar at the end of the season, according to reports in Spain.

Neymar joined the Parisien club from Barcelona for a world-record €222million fee in 2017.

He is yet to get his hands on the Champions League since leaving the La Liga giants and

PSG looked like they had settled at the start of this season with Christophe Galtier in charge, however, there have been plenty of difficult periods in recent months.

From rumours of Kylian Mbappe's unhappiness to Lionel Messi's contract situation, it is never a boring day in the French capital.

The latest debacle comes after Neymar got into a fight with teammates Hugo Ekitike and Vitorino and sporting director Luis Campos.

Spanish outlet AS say the Ligue 1 club are 'going through a crisis of results and wardrobe'.

The 'most prominent debacle' after the match at AS Monaco is Neymar after 'fighting' with Campos in the dressing room and Vitorino and Ekitike 'on the pitch'.

Despite the player's 'good performances', PSG will try to sell him in the summer transfer window.

Guardiola Ashamed of Gerrard Slip Jibe

LONDON (Dispatches) - Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola issued a public apology to former Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard over comments made in the wake of the Premier League hitting City with over 100 breaches of financial rules.

The English champions could face points deductions or even relegation from the English top flight if they are found guilty of the alleged breaches, between 2009/10 and 2017/18, by an independent commission.

Gerrard's slip in a defeat to Chelsea in 2014 opened the door for City to win the Premier League title, two years before Guardiola arrived in Manchester.

In his first press conference after the charges were revealed, Guardiola said: "I don't know if we are responsible for Steven Gerrard slipping."

However, the City boss said he had since been in touch with the former Aston Villa manager to offer his apologies.

Gerrard is considered one of the best players in Liverpool's history despite his failure to win a Premier League title.

"I apologize to Steven Gerrard for my unnecessary and stupid comments, that I said last time about him," said Guardiola.

"He knows how I admire him for what he has done in the country where I live. I defended my club but I didn't represent my club well with my stupid comments. I am ashamed.

"I have apologized to him privately but, like the comment was public, my apology must be public as well."



UEFA Responsible For Paris Champions League Final Chaos

PARIS (Dispatches) - UEFA itself bears "primary responsibility" for failures which "almost led to disaster" at the 2022 Champions League final in Paris between Liverpool and Real Madrid, a report commissioned by the European football body said.

The report also claimed the policing model was influenced by a view of Liverpool based on the deadly 1989 Hillsborough disaster on incorrect assumptions that the city's supporters were a threat to public order.

The report said that the panel "has concluded that UEFA, as event owner, bears primary responsibility for failures which almost led to disaster." The panel also said it was astonished that the policing model was influenced by a view of Liverpool hooliganism based on Hillsborough. "The safety, security and service model laid out in the Saint-Denis Convention was ignored in favor of a securitized approach," the report said.

Real Madrid's 1-0 win at the Stade de France on May 28 was overshadowed by events surrounding European football's showpiece event.

Kick-off was delayed by 37 minutes as fans struggled to access the stadium after being funneled into overcrowded bottlenecks on approach.

Police then fired tear gas towards thousands of supporters locked behind metal fences on the perimeter to the stadium.

UEFA General Secretary Theodore Theodoridis made an apology for the lapses that led to a breakdown in the organization of the crowd and thanked Dr Brandao Rodrigues and the panel who created the report for their work.

