

Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian Has Said That the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Iran Have Reached an Agreement on the IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi's Upcoming Trip to Tehran

IRAN NEWS

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami Said That the Country Plans in the First Step To Secure a 20% Share of the Iranian Energy Basket From Nuclear Electricity

VOL. XXVIII, No. 7722 TEHRAN Price 50,000 Rials

www.irannewsdaily.com

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 28, 2023 - ESFAND 9, 1401

2

DOMESTIC

Stable, Safe, Strong Neighbors Important for Iran



> SEE PAGE 2

3

DOMESTIC

China Keen to Participate In Iran's Maritime Projects



> SEE PAGE 3

4

INTERNATIONAL

Putin Casts War As a Battle For Russia's Survival



> SEE PAGE 4

8

SPORTS

Tatum Seals Celtics Thriller Over Sixers, Embiid



> SEE PAGE 8

Iran Always Welcomes Diplomacy

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian says the Islamic Republic has always been in favor of a diplomatic path to settlement of differences and never distanced itself from the negotiating table.

He made the remarks in an exclusive interview with Iran's Al-Alam television network, whose text was published on Sunday.

Referring to his recent visit to Baghdad and his meetings with top Iraqi officials, including his counterpart, Fuad Hussein, Iran's top diplomat said the Iraqi foreign minister had returned from an earlier visit to Washington with a message for Iran.

"He carried the message that the American side is ready for an agreement" with Iran on the revival of the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Amirabdollahian said.

"We have always welcomed the path of diplomacy and negotiation and never distanced ourselves from negotiation," Iran's foreign minister emphasized.

See Page 7

Pakistan Sending Team to Iran for Gas Pipeline Project

ISLAMABAD (Dispatches) - Pakistan will soon send a delegation to Iran for talks on the Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline (IPGP) project, sources informed ProPakistani.

The delegation will mostly comprise officials from the Ministry of Energy, while officials from the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are expected to join the delegation, diplomatic sources told ProPakistani.

According to sources, the delegation will discuss the penalty for the gas pipeline project's delay with Iranian authorities. Pertinently, Pakistan has to complete its section of the IPGP project in its borders by February-March 2024 or face an \$18 billion penalty for violating the agreement.

In case of non-implementation, Iran reserves the right to take action by invoking the penalty clause of the Gas Sales Purchase Agreement (GSPA). The agreement, originally signed in 2009 for 25 years, had a three-year construction period for Pakistan to lay down a 781-kilometer pipeline from the Iranian border to Nawabshah.

See Page 7

Enemies Turned to Hybrid War After Failure In Anti-Iran Fronts

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - The commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Quds Force says the enemies, frustrated with the failure of their plots against Iran, have resorted to extensive psychological operations as part of their hybrid war.

"Mainstream media are now under the control of enemies. Enemies have lately waged a hybrid war [against the Islamic Republic] after they suffered successive defeats. Media outlets, therefore, play a significant and integral role throughout this campaign and are widely employed for that purpose," Brigadier General Esmail Qaani said in a ceremony in the capital Tehran in commemoration of martyrs of pro-resistance media outlets.

He added, "Thank God, the resistance front and pro-resistance media outlets, irrespective of all strict limitations, have managed to improve their capabilities day by day through diligent endeavors and strong determination. Pro-resistance media have well showcased the splendor of the resistance front, and have proven that insistence on preserving and promoting religious values is an obligation arising from God's and Prophet Muhammad's (peace be upon Him) commands."

The Quds Force commander went on to dispel the conventional and misguided notion that in order for a party to emerge victorious in a war, it needs more sophisticated weapons and greater financial resources.

"The global arrogance, led by the United States and the Zionist regime, has misinformed the world public opinion by alleging that whoever has more weapons, equipment and assets in a war would emerge as the winner. They are propagating the idea due to the fact that they make money out of arms deals," Qaani said.

"They used to wage wars across the globe in order to sell weapons. All those who once claimed weapons and military gear would determine the fate of battles now admit that those who put on more resistance throughout a war come out victorious in the end," the chief commander of the IRGC Quds Force said.

Earlier this month, Iran's Army chief said enemies had resorted to a hybrid war against the Islamic establishment after they were dealt heavy blows by the Iranian nation and Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

Meanwhile in the event, the head of the IRIB, said that resistance is not a cost, but an investment.

Speaking at the ceremony honoring the media martyrs on the resistance front, Dr. Jebelli said: "In a hard war the enemy seeks to destroy our fortifications and force us to retreat from one place to another place but in soft war, the enemy does not use weapons, bombardment, and physically does not seek to push us back from one area to another, but seeks to mislead us and change our thinking, distort reality, and mislead us."

"Martyrs of the resistance media fought on both fronts, both hard and soft wars. In the soft war, the enemy seeks to mislead us and take us away from the straight path," Jebelli added.

"We bravely stood against all enemy's plots for 44 years, we are experiencing a new type of war and that is hybrid war. The enemy has come to the field with all its strength to defeat Iran," he underscored.

Some say, "We proudly pay for our resistance." But I would like to say that "Resistance not only costs nothing but is a total investment," the head of IRIB highlighted.

Iran, China Help Russia in Volga River Dredging

LONDON (Dispatches) - The Iran Marine Industrial Company is joining China in helping Russia to dredge the Volga-Caspian Seaway Canal, The Jamestown Foundation said.

The dredging of the canal is set to allow Russian, Chinese, Iranian, Indian and other cargo ships to carry more heavy shipments to and from the Caspian to Europe.

Furthermore, this will allow the transit of additional larger naval vessels from Russia's Caspian Flotilla to the Sea of Azov, where Moscow can use them against Ukraine. For Iran, as well as China, involvement in this effort is geo-economically and geopolitically beneficial because it will help Russia overcome some of the bottlenecks that plague both its existing infrastructure and Moscow's ability to address these problems on its own.

But perhaps more importantly, this dredging operation will further strengthen the emerging Moscow-Tehran axis, integrate Iran into the Russian-Chinese alliance, counter Turkish and Western influence in the region, as well as threaten Ukraine.

According to The Jamestown Foundation, Moscow's willingness to allow Tehran to join China in dredging the Volga-Caspian Seaway Canal is if anything even more crucial as it integrates Iran into the Russian-Chinese alliance in the military and economic spheres.

The Kremlin's decision to involve Iran in the dredging project came earlier this week and comes on the heels of two other decisions, one allowing Chinese dredging companies to take part in this operation and the other allowing Tehran to use its own ships in the Volga-Caspian Seaway Canal. The two Russian government agencies involved, the Russian Sea and River Fleet Authority and Russian Port Authority, said that Iran's involvement will allow the Russian authorities to deepen the canal to 4.5 meters. At present, Russian officials maintain that the canal is 3.5-meters deep.

ViewPoint

By: Hamid Reza Naghashian



IRGC the Strong Pillar of Islamic Revolution

Since May 5, 1979 when Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) was established, it has turned into one of the strongest pillars of the Islamic Revolution of Iran and for this reason, hostilities against this mastermind of many achievements of the country is on the rise and it is under attacks and accusations of enemies.

When the eight-year Iraqi imposed war ended and the IRGC played a great role in defending the country against occupation and invasion during the war, the IRGC decided to be a constrictive tool for the country beside its main task of defending the country against any threat from enemies.

In different states and under different commanders, the IRGC tried to strengthen the country's military power as a deterrent tool against enemies and at the same time it was involved in construction and developmental activities in the country by setting up several bodies which were in charge of development of the country.

Khatam-ul Anbiya Construction Headquarters is one of the arms of the IRGC which has been in charge of development of the country by involving many developmental projects. Despite many efforts and achievements of the IRGC in the developmental projects, its achievements in this field has gone almost unnoticed but its military achievements have been under the spotlight which have even forced the enemies especially Israel and the West to confess the progresses.

IRGC has had considerable achievements especially in drone and missile technology in a way that it has astonished the world and now the Islamic Republic has turned into a drone and missile power in the world and it can export its military products to any country.

Because of these achievements, attacks and accusations against the IRGC have been intensified by the West and enemies, and first the U.S. designated the IRGC as a terrorist group and now other Western countries think of following the path of the U.S. under the pressure of Israel.

But the IRGC with giving no damn to the bullies and accusations continues its mission which is to defend the Islamic Revolution and support the oppressed people in the world especially the Muslims, and the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has repeatedly emphasized that the Islamic Revolution and its IRGC will defend Muslims and Palestinians and will give due response to anyone who tries to take action against the Islamic Revolution of Iran.

See Page 7

Gov't Reports 12% y/y Rise in Exports

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Figures by the Iranian customs administration (IRICA) show that non-oil exports from the country rose by 12.22% year on year in the 11 calendar months to February 19.

IRICA said in a statement on Sunday that exports from Iran reached a total of \$48.8 billion between March 2022 and February this year.

The statement said that export shipments had dropped by 1.16% in volume terms against the 11 months to late February 2022 to 111.3 million metric tons (mt).

The figures do not cover Iran's exports of crude oil, mazut and kerosene as well as goods and products carried by passengers.

Petrochemicals accounted for \$21.7 billion or 44.49% of all Iranian exports between March last year and February this year, said IRICA, adding that Iran had exported some \$6.8 billion worth liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) over the same period. China was the largest customer of Iranian exports in the 11 months to late February with some \$13.6 billion worth of purchases, followed by Iraq at \$9.4 billion and Turkey at \$6.9 billion, said the customs authority.

On imports into Iran, IRICA said that the country had taken delivery of 33.6 million mt of goods worth \$53.7 billion between March last year and February this year, adding that the figure was an increase of 15.28% in value terms compared with the same previous period.



Advertisement Department
021-44253335-39

www.irannewsdaily.com
info@irannewsdaily.com

@irannewsdaily @irannewsdaily

Iran Played No Role in Afghanistan Embassy Development

TEHRAN (MNA) – The Iranian foreign ministry has said in a statement that it played no role in any changes to the state of the Afghanistan embassy in Tehran.

“The issue of handing over and transformation of the Afghan embassy in Tehran is an internal matter (related to Afghanistan) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran has not entered into the matter by any means,” a statement from the ministry said on Sunday afternoon.

“Iran’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs has not received any document or equipment or any other object belonging to the Afghan Embassy in Tehran,” it further said.

Stable, Safe, Strong Neighbors Important for Iran

TEHRAN (MNA) – Referring to the insecurity the U.S. brings anywhere it is present, IRGC Commander-in-Chief Major General Hossein Salami stressed that Iran attaches great importance to its stable, safe, and strong neighbors.

Salami made the remarks in a meeting with the Iraqi defense minister Thabet Muhammad Saeed Al-Abbasi and his accompanying delegation in Tehran.

Wishing prosperity for Iraq, the IRGC chief stated that Tehran considers Baghdad to be of unique importance in the political geography of the Islamic world.

Considering recent developments in the region and the enemies’ conspiracies, Salami said that allowing extra-regional powers to control Iraq’s security order and divide this country can’t be accepted by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

“We are looking for a strong authority for Iraq while the Americans and Zionists are seeking to dominate the region and create insecurity in Iraq and Iran,”



Salami said elsewhere in his remarks.

Stressing the need for expelling U.S. forces from the region, Salami criticized the approach of several Arab countries in normalizing ties with the Israeli regime.

The IRGC Commander-in-Chief also called for enhancing Iran-Iraq cooperation in the fields of defense, military, and security.

The Iraqi defense minister, for his part, hailed Iran for assisting Iraq in combating terrorism and terrorist groups.

Al-Abbasi also announced the willingness of the current Iraqi government to benefit from Iran’s experiences in all fields, especially in the field of defense and security.

Tehran to Host Ancient Civilizations Forum

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Minister of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Ezzatollah Zarghami said on Monday that the ancient civilization forum will be scheduled to be held in Tehran in the next Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2023, to March 20, 2024).

Zarghami made the remarks on Monday at the 20th Annual Symposium on Iranian Archaeology in Tehran.

Iran’s Minister of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism in his remarks referred to his one-day trip to Baghdad to attend the ancient civilization states summit and said that the summit will be held in Iran in the next Iranian calendar year.

The 20th edition of the Annual Symposium on Iranian Archaeology took place in the National Museum of Iran in Tehran.

Govt. Branches Give CBI New Authorities To Manage Forex Market

TEHRAN (MNA) - The heads of the three branches of the Iranian government have approved a resolution based on which the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) is given complete authority to take the necessary measures for managing the foreign currency exchange market, Tasnim News Agency reported.

Following the recent fluctuations in the forex market, the CBI sent a proposal package to the government, requesting new authorities to be able to manage the market. The package was assessed and approved in a meeting attended by President Ebrahim Raisi and the heads of the government’s two other branches on Sunday evening.

In this regard, Iranian Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Ehsan Khandouzi told the press on Monday that based on the mentioned resolution, all the country’s industries and exporting complexes, even the government-owned ones, including the oil and gas industry, are obliged to follow the CBI’s new policies for managing forex market.

“The central bank needed new authorities to be able to intervene effectively [in the forex market], and [to this end] this package was approved by the government at the meeting of the heads of the three branches,” Khandouzi said.

Iran to Prosecute SAVAK’s Chief Torturer for Crimes Against Iranians

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran’s top human rights official on Monday said the country will prosecute the former deputy chief of SAVAK, the so-called “secret police” during the Pahlavi regime, for his complicity in human rights abuses against the people of Iran.

Kazem Gharibabadi, secretary of Iran’s High Council for Human Rights and the judiciary chief’s deputy for international affairs, in a letter to the country’s attorney general, demanded the SAVAK chief torturer’s prosecution, the judiciary-affiliated Mizan News Agency said.

In the letter, Gharibabadi asked the attorney general “to collect evidence of crimes committed by Sabeti and to identify the victims of these crimes, and to take the necessary measures to file a complaint against him.”

The notorious former deputy SAVAK chief was recently spotted with his family at the gathering of “regime change” proponents in downtown Los Angeles.

SAVAK was established in 1957 with the assistance of America’s CIA and Israel’s Mossad. The agency was vested with far-ranging powers to use torture against those who expressed dissent against the West-backed Pahlavi regime.

There is ample evidence of how undercover SAVAK agents – working directly on the orders of Sabeti – would intimidate, arrest, torture, rape and kill women during the Pahlavi dictatorship, which has been widely documented.

Sabeti escaped Iran before Imam Khomeini returned in February 1979 and the Islamic Republic replaced the West-backed Pahlavi family’s dictatorship.

Jask Oil Terminal Guarantees The Continuation of Oil Exports

TEHRAN (IP) - The head of the Iran Oil Terminals Company (IOTC) said: “Jask Oil Terminal, as a national and strategic project, guarantees the continuation of oil exports.”

According to IOTC, Abbas Gharibi visited the Jask oil terminal along with a group of managers to check the status of the terminal.

“IOTC operates as an operational, specialized and professional company in the fields of receiving, storing, measuring, exporting and importing crude oil, gas condensates, and marine services,” Shana cites as Gharibi says.

The IOTC head stated: “This company, with its operational capacity, experience, and expertise of its professional staff, is able to carry out berthing and separation operations of huge oil tankers throughout the Persian Gulf and the Oman Sea in order to export Iran’s crude oil and gas condensate based on the policies instructed by NIOC.”

Iraq Must Not Be Used for Plots, Threats Against Neighbors

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - President Ebrahim Raisi says Iraq must not be used for plots and threats against its neighbors.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran supports the Iraqi government’s efforts for the economic and military reconstruction of this country,” Raisi said in a meeting with Iraqi Defense Minister Thabet Muhammad Saeed al-Abbasi in Tehran.

He said that Iran and Iraq have joint borders of friendship and cooperation, adding, “The Islamic Republic of Iran considers the security of Iraq as its own security and supports the strengthening of stability and security in this country.”

The Iraqi defense minister, for his part, hailed Iran’s support for the Iraqi nation during the foreign invasion of the country and its battle against Daesh terrorists.

Abbasi added that Baghdad would not allow opportunist elements to pose a threat against the borders and territories of Iran and Iraq or foment insecurity.

He called for the continuation of Iran’s support for the reconstruction of the war-ravaged Iraq.

Iran, Finland FMs meet in Geneva

TEHRAN (MNA) – A meeting was held between Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian and his Finnish counterpart in Switzerland on Monday.

Amirabdollahian, who is on a visit to Geneva, met and held talks with Finnish Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto on Monday.

Amirabdollahian left Tehran for Geneva on Sunday evening to attend the UN council’s meeting.

Today, the Iranian top diplomat will deliver a speech at the UN Human Rights Council.

Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Nasser Kanaani

and Kazem Gharibabadi, secretary of Iran’s High Council for Human Rights are accompanying Amirabdollahian on this trip.

The council, made up of 47 members countries, takes up an extensive array of human rights issues — including discrimination, the freedom of religion, right to housing or the deleterious impact of economic sanctions targeting governments on regular people — as well as country “situations” like those in Afghanistan, Syria, Myanmar, Nicaragua, and South Sudan. It usually meets three times a year.

Anti-Revolution Team Identified in Isfahan

TEHRAN (IP) - Minister of Intelligence said that a team of anti-Revolution elements was identified in Isfahan, and despite the training they received, a team failed to carry out its operation.

Minister of Intelligence spoke about the actions of the enemy against the Islamic Republic of Iran while attending the Security Council of Khuzestan Province.

According to Iran Press news agency Ismail Khatib said on Saturday night at the meeting of the Khuzestan Provincial Security Council, which was held at the governor’s office, that the people of this land supported Islam, the revolution and their unity despite all the enmities and stood against all these enmities.

While congratulating on the Shabaniyah feasts, he said: Our guards have always been the guardians of the revolution and Islam, with the wishes of Imam Hussein (AS), and our veterans are a symbol of sacrifice, perseverance, and governorship.

The minister added: “The people of Khuzestan, from the time of the revolution until today, despite all the seditions of the enemies, have stood with their unity against their influence and have shown that they have always been standing by the values of the Islamic Revolution of Iran.”

Khatib stated that if security is based on the people and is designed based on the people, it will remain stable and resistant to the influence of the enemy, adding: “In our country, different tribes, religions, and clans serve as the basis of this security.”

He said: In the recent street riots, the enemy sought to overthrow the system, but by the grace of God and with the wise leadership of the supreme leader and the support of the armed forces as well as the insight of the people, the enemy’s plan failed.

He further said: “A team was identified in Isfahan, and despite the training they received, a team failed to carry out its operation. They also faked an operation in Karaj so that they could buy a reputation for themselves with it, but these fakes and news will have a short life.”

Khatib added: Security is not achieved through contracts and memorandums with the child-killing Zionist regime, but security is created from within and with the cooperation of neighboring countries.

He said: “Today, the Zionist regime is seeking to create an integrated defense system in the region, while it has failed against the Palestinians, and these actions have no result other than looting the countries’ capital.”

He added: “With the efforts of President Raisi’s government in establishing good, mutual and cooperative relations with neighboring countries, we hope to establish stable and effective security between Iran and these countries.”

Taliban Send New Diplomats to Tehran

TEHRAN (MNA) – The Taliban announced that new diplomats have been sent to Iran to run the Afghan embassy in Tehran.

7 experienced diplomats have been sent from Kabul to Iran to continue their activities with the new caretaker of the Afghan Embassy in Iran, Zakir Jalaly, a Taliban foreign ministry official said.

This decision was made in order to prevent the embassy’s work from being halted, according to Jalaly.

The Iranian foreign ministry has said in a statement that it played no role in any changes to the state of the Afghanistan embassy in Tehran.

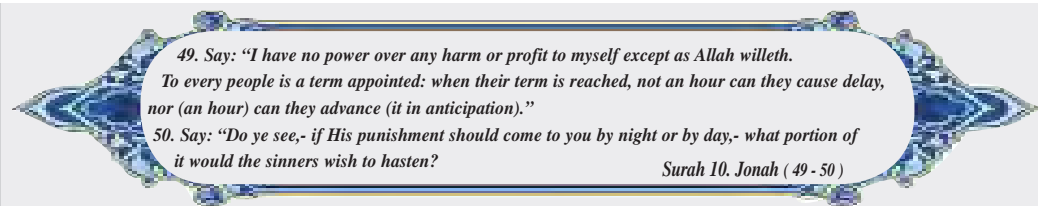
“The issue of handing over and transformation of the Afghan embassy in Tehran is an internal matter (related to Afghanistan) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran has not entered into the matter by any means,” a statement from the ministry said on Sunday afternoon.

“Iran’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs has not received any document or equipment or any other object belonging to the Afghan Embassy in Tehran,” it further said.



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	12:16
■ Evening (Maghreb)	18:16
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	05:11
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:34



China Keen to Participate in Iran's Maritime Projects

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Head of the Supreme Council of Marine Industries' Secretariat Saeed Jafari said with the current positive approach seen in the talks between the two states during President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi's visit, China has expressed readiness to participate in Iran's maritime projects.

Considering the positive negotiations between the two sides during the recent visit of President Ebrahim Raisi to China, the Chinese have expressed readiness to participate in all Iranian marine projects, Jafari said.

According to the official, during president Raisi's visit to China, the Iranian party held talks with the representatives of some major Chinese maritime companies and good agreements have been reached.

"Considering that China is one of the world's largest maritime producers and has large and capable companies in this field, during the recent trip we had negotiations with one of these companies, and good agreements were achieved," Jafari said.

He noted that the main focus of the discussions between the two sides has been on technology transfer for manufacturing large-scale vessels.

"Currently, we have good companies in this field, but because our companies are still green in the construction of many vessels, it is better to have another experienced company as a consultant with us," the official added.

Supplying major parts and equipment that cannot be produced domestically, has been also among the major issues the two sides agreed upon in the marine field, according to Jafari.

Heading a high-ranking delegation, Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi was on a three-day state visit to China starting February 14.



Jafari went on to say that both sides had an agreement in the field of investment in manufacture, adding that China announced readiness for joint investment in the field of completing shipbuilding yards in the country where Iran is unable to complete it.

He added that currently the country should systematize its demands to reach the final agreement with China, adding that the approach of the council is to connect the active private sector to the Chinese counterparts because the private sector comparing to the state-run is more stable in decision making and implementing the project.

Jafari went on to say that currently the council has found no company as its target and it is studying because it wants to find a group to be more flexible in terms of structure, accessibility and geographical.

He noted that Iran could form a consortium with presence of manufacturer, part-maker and even exploitation in order to talk with Chinese groups but in the field of maritime, the country has so far been unable to form consortium and the council is to choose a group as the ground for this joint cooperation.

Jafari went on to say that although different Chinese companies are facing Iranians, they pursue a joint integrated policy and if we want to choose a group for joint cooperation in the field of maritime, their cooperation should be very high.

Touching on the continuation of talks, he said that he predicts the Chinese negotiating side in the maritime field would return to Tehran early April and the talks will continue in the country and expressed hope that till their making decision for finalizing the talks, Iran would create a proper ground.

He reiterated that the Chines have no limitation in the investment volume, adding that in the past Chinese used to refrain from joint cooperation but in recent talks they have shown their will fo cooperation.

Winning Crystal Statue the Outcome of Management and Collective Work

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Manager of Industries Engineering of Hormozgan Steel Company (HOSCO) says the company won the crystal statue in the 17th national conference and 11th festival of suggestion system and this achievement is the outcome of a collective work and precise planning especially implementing improvement projects.



Marzieh Hamidi in an interview pointed to some details of this conference and festival and said that the festival was held in one main section as well as 6 sub-sections that the main section included evaluation of performance and maturation of the suggestion systems of organizations and the sub-sections included top suggestions, top suggester, secretary of top suggestion system, top supporting manager, top organizational unit of the suggester team.

Hormozgan Steel Company won the crystal statue in the main section of the event and it also won the top award in the top suggestion and organizational unit.

Ms. Hamidi noted that this achievement was the outcome of precise planning and implementing the projects for improvement which was achieved during self-evaluation of the suggestion system last year. She presented this issue in the event and was hailed and honored. She then pointed to some of projects of the company in the past year.

Dam Reservoirs Increase by 6%

TEHRAN (MNA) - The total volume of water in Iran's dam reservoirs has reached 23.35 billion cubic meters since the beginning of the current water year (September 23, 2022) up to February 25, showing a six percent increase compared to the same period last year.

According to Firouz Ghasemzadeh, the spokesman of the Energy Ministry's water industry, the precipitation rate during autumn (September 23-December 21, 2022) was not very favorable but the situation is expected to get better as of early March when glaciers begin to melt.

The total volume of water input to the country's dams since the beginning of the current water year up to February 25 is reported to be 12.25 billion cubic meters, which shows no significant change compared to the same period last year.

The volume of water output from the dams in the mentioned period is estimated at 8.1 billion cubic meters indicating a decrease of 15 percent. The figure was 9.46 billion cubic meters in the same period last year.

According to Ghasemzadeh, currently, 47 percent of the total capacity of the country's dams is full. Iran's total dam reservoirs stand at 50.5 billion cubic meters.

Out of a total of 183 currently operational dams across Iran, 52 are related to the Caspian Sea catchment area, 12 are based in the Urmia basin, 68 dams are located in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman watersheds, 34 dams are in the Central Plateau, 11 dams are in Sarakhs catchment basin, and another six dams are located across the eastern boundary basin (Hamoun).

A recent report by Nature Scientific Journal on Iran's water crisis indicates that from 2002 to 2015, over 74 billion cubic meters have been extracted from aquifers, which is unprecedented and its revival takes thousands of years along with urgent action.

Three Iranian scientists studied 30 basins in the country and realized that the rate of aquifer depletion over a 14-year period has been about 74 billion cubic meters, which is recently published in Nature Scientific Journal.

Iran Exporting Decor Stones to Europe, Asia

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Since decor stones excavated from Iran's mines are unrivaled in quality at the international level, the Iranian decor stone is exported to Italy, Spain, Turkey, China, India, and Iraq, an Iranian businessman said.

Member of the board of directors of the Kowsar Mining and Industrial Development Investment Company Amin Ebrahimi Bardar said that the porcelain stone from Iran's Azna is equivalent to Italy's Carrara marble.

He also said that the onyx of Babashurab and the limestone of Khorramabad are unique in world markets. Most of the décor stones used in the holy shrines in Iraq have been supplied from Babashurab mines, he noted.

Mentioning China as one of the proper destinations of Iranian décor stones, Ebrahimi Bardar said that President Ebrahim Raisi's recent trip to Beijing paved the way for more cooperation and that companies are waiting to see the result of the negotiations between the Chinese and Iranian officials.

The Kowsar Mining and Industrial Development Investment Company opened its first exhibition at the Tehran International Exhibition Fairground on February 21. The expo came to an end on February 24 after introducing the achievements of subsidiaries in the presence of startups and knowledge-based companies.

Loading, Unloading Over 89m Tons of Goods

TEHRAN (MNA) – A local official said that more than 89 million tons of commodities have been loaded or unloaded at ports of Hormozgan Province.

The director general of the Ports and Maritime Department of Hormozgan Province said that 89 million and 294 thousand tons of goods were loaded or unloaded at the provincial ports.

Hossein Abbasnejad went on to say that 69 million and 595 thousand of various oil and non-oil commodities were loaded or unloaded over the past 11 months at Shahid Rajaee port.

He announced the displacement of 26 million and 432,000 tons of exported goods and over 10 million types of non-oil imported goods during the 11 months of the current Iranian calendar year in the province's ports.

Shahid Rajaee Port is one of the ports of Bandar Abbas in southern Hormozgan Province and lies on the north shores of the Strait of Hormuz.

Foreign Ministry key in Attracting Capital to Petchem Industry

TEHRAN (Shana) – The Investment Director of the National Petrochemical Company (NPC) said: "To attract new investments in Iran's petrochemical industry, the support and capacities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs can be benefited from."

Reza Nekuei said: "The visit of Foreign Ministry executives and experts to the Asalouyeh Petrochemical Complexes and petrochemical complexes has led the petrochemical industry managers to inform the Foreign Ministry representatives about the process of activities and exports."

The Director of Investment of NPC said that completing the value chain as a strategy aimed at reducing crude sales is considered in the meetings between representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and executives of

petrochemical companies. Investment can bring more value added in Iran's petrochemical industry.

IDRO Wins Golden Statue for Leading PR

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Public Relations of Industrial Development and Renovation Organization of Iran (IDRO) received golden statue during the 9th ceremonies for honoring the leading public relations of Iran.

According to the reports, during the 9th festival of honoring the leading public relations of the country which was held at the conference hall of the IRIB, the public relations of IDRO had an unforgettable day as its public relations was awarded with the golden statue as the leading public relations of the country.

The organizers of the event by evaluating the structure, performance and contents of the public relations which was conducted by a special jury named the winners and leading public relations of the year.

For winning the golden statue the participants needed to score at least 700 points and the public relations of IDRO due to its commitment to leadership and performing based on the QMPR model scored 745 points and getting five stars to be feted with the award in the event.

Evaluations of the entries in the event were conducted based on the specialized excellence model of EFQM in public relations which includes 9 basic indicators and 81 sub-indicators.



Pakistan PM to Inaugurate 100MW Iran-Gwadar Power Transmission Project

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will inaugurate the 100 MW Iran-Gwadar power transmission project during his visit to Balochistan this week.

This was stated by Chief Secretary Balochistan Abdul Aziz Aqeeli while addressing a meeting to review the ongoing uplift projects in Gwadar.

The Chief Secretary said after unveiling of the project by the Prime Minister, electricity supply to Gwadar from Iran will be formally started. He said during his visit, the Prime Minister will also open the project of first cross-stuffing facility at Gwadar port and distribute boat engine checks among deserving fishermen of Gwadar.

Belarus Has 1.5m Potential Soldiers Outside Army

MINSK (Dispatches) - Belarus, a small Russian ally bordering Ukraine, has as many as 1.5 million potential military personnel outside its armed forces, a senior official was quoted as saying.

President Alexander Lukashenko has supported his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in his year-long war with Ukraine, including by letting him invade from Belarusian territory and by allowing Russia to train newly mobilised troops in Belarus.

Lukashenko this month ordered the formation of a new volunteer territorial defence force of up to 150,000 people. He has said his army would fight only if Belarus was attacked.



Putin Casts War as a Battle For Russia's Survival



MOSCOW (Dispatches) - President Vladimir Putin cast the confrontation with the West over the Ukraine war as an existential battle for the survival of Russia and the Russian people - and said he was forced to take into account NATO's nuclear capabilities.

A year since ordering the invasion of Ukraine, Putin is increasingly presenting the war as a make-or-break moment in Russian history - and saying that he believes the very future of Russia and its people is in peril.

"They have one goal: to disband the former Soviet Union and its fundamental part - the Russian Federation," Putin told Rossiya 1 state television in an interview recorded on Wednesday but released on Sunday.

The NATO and the West dismiss such narrative, saying their objective is to help Ukraine defend itself against an unprovoked attack.

Putin said the West wanted to divide up Russia and then control the world's biggest producer of raw materials, a step, he said, that could well lead to the destruction of many of the peoples of Russia including the ethnic Russian majority.

"I do not even know if such an ethnic group as the Russian people will be able to survive in the form in which it exists today," Putin said. He said the West's plans had been put to paper, though did not specify where.

The United States has denied that it wants to destroy Russia, while President Joe Biden has warned that a conflict between Russia and NATO could trigger World War Three, though he has also said Putin should not remain in power.

Putin said the tens of billions of dollars' worth of U.S. and European military assistance to Ukraine showed that Russia was now facing off NATO itself - the Cold War nightmare of both Soviet and Western leaders.

Ukraine says it will not rest until every last Russian soldier is ejected from Ukraine, including from Crimea which Russia annexed in 2014.

Putin's existential framing of the war allows the 70-year-old Kremlin chief to gird the Russian people for a much more deeper conflict while it also allows him much greater freedom in the types of weapons he could one day use.

Russia's official nuclear doctrine allows for the use of nuclear weapons if they - or other types of weapons of mass destruction - are used against it, or if conventional weapons are used, which endanger "the very existence of the state."

Putin has signalled he is ready to rip up the architecture of nuclear arms control - including the big powers' moratorium on nuclear testing - unless the West backs off in Ukraine.

On Tuesday, he sought to underscore Russian resolve in Ukraine by suspending a landmark nuclear arms control treaty, announcing new strategic systems had been put on combat duty and warning that Moscow could resume nuclear tests.

Putin said Russia would only resume discussion once French and British nuclear weapons were also taken into account.

Russia, which inherited the Soviet Union's nuclear weapons, has the world's biggest store of nuclear warheads. It has more warheads than the United States, France and Britain combined, according to the Federation of American Scientists.

"In today's conditions, when all the leading NATO countries have declared their main goal as inflicting a strategic defeat on us, so that our people suffer as they say, how can we ignore their nuclear capabilities in these conditions?" Putin said.

Viruses in Cambodian Bird Flu Cases Identified

BANGKOK (Dispatches) - The viruses that infected two people in Cambodia with H5N1 avian influenza have been identified as an endemic clade of bird flu circulating in the country, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said.

The cases reported last week had raised concerns they were caused by a new strain of H5N1, clade 2.3.4.4b, which emerged in 2020 and has caused record numbers of deaths among wild birds and domestic poultry in recent months.

But work so far suggests this is not the case.



Migrant Shipwreck in Southern Italy Kills 58

ROME (Dispatches) - Fifty-eight people died, including some children, when a wooden sailing boat carrying migrants crashed against rocks on the southern Italian coast, authorities said.

The vessel had set sail from Turkey several days ago with migrants from Afghanistan, Iran and several other countries, and crashed in stormy weather near Steccato di Cutro, a seaside resort on the eastern coast of Calabria.

The provisional death toll stood at 58, Manuela Curra, a provincial government official, told Reuters. Eighty-one people survived, with 20 hospitalised including one person in intensive care, she said.

One survivor was arrested on migrant trafficking charges, the Guardia di Finanza customs police said.

Cutro's mayor, Antonio Ceraso, said women and children were among the dead. Exact numbers for how many children had died were not yet available.

His voice cracking up, Ceraso told the SkyTG24 news channel that he had seen "a spectacle that you would never want to see in your life ... a gruesome sight ... that stays with you for all your life".



Thousands Without Power as California Was Hit by Snow, Cold

LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - Nearly 85,000 households and businesses were without power in the Los Angeles area, as storms continued to pummel parts of California, bringing snow to higher elevations and dumping rain and hail in the flatlands.

Interstate 5, the largest highway leading north out of the city, remained closed at the steep grade known as the Grapevine due to heavy snow, while several more southern points of the freeway in and around Los Angeles were closed due to flooding, the California Department of Transportation said.

In Northern California, San Francisco was expected to experience record cold temperatures on Saturday, and the National Weather Service warned residents of the state capital of Sacramento to avoid travel from Sunday through Wednesday as rain and snow started up again after a reprieve on Saturday.

"Extreme impacts from heavy snow & winds will cause extremely dangerous to impossible driving conditions & likely widespread road closures & infrastructure impacts!" the agency said on Twitter.

The next set of storms, expected to hit on Sunday, will bring wind gusts of up to 50 miles per hour (80 kph) in the Sacramento Valley, and up to 70 miles per hour in the nearby Sierra Nevada mountains. Yosemite National Park was closed through Wednesday due to severe winter conditions.

Vehicles transit in snow-covered roads in Castaic, in Los Angeles County. A massive low-pressure system driven from the Arctic was responsible for the unusual conditions, said Bryan Jackson, a forecaster at the NWS Weather Prediction Center in College Park, Maryland. In Southern California, "this is a rare case of a cold, significant storm event," Jackson said.

In a sight that must have delighted many Angelenos on Friday, snowflakes even fell around the Hollywood sign atop Mount Lee in the hills above the city, known for its sunny days and palm trees.

On Saturday, scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms were expected to bring rain, hail and a mixture of snow and moisture called "graupe" to the area, the National Weather Service said.

Assad Meets Senior Arab Lawmakers in Damascus

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) - A delegation of senior Arab parliamentarians met with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in Damascus on Sunday, another sign of thawing ties after more than a decade of isolation over the conflict in Syria.

The heads of the Iraqi, Jordanian, Palestinian, Libyan, Egyptian and Emirati houses of representatives, as well as representatives from Oman and Lebanon, traveled to Syria as part of a delegation from the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union.

They met with Syrian parliamentarians and with Assad, according to Syrian state news agency SANA. "We cannot do without Syria and Syria cannot do without its Arab environment, which we hope it can return to," said Iraqi parliament speaker Mohammed Halbousi.

Syria was largely isolated from the rest of the Arab world following Assad's deadly crackdown against protests that erupted against his rule in 2011.

The Arab League suspended Syria's membership in 2011 and many Arab countries pulled their envoys out of Damascus.

But Assad has benefited from an outpouring of support from Arab states following the devastating earthquake on Feb. 6, which killed more than 5,900 people across his country, according to a tally of U.N. and Syrian government figures.

Donors have included Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, which both supported rebels seeking to overthrow Assad in the early years of the Syrian conflict.

Egypt's President Abdul Fattah al-Sisi spoke with Assad by phone for the first time on Feb. 7 and Jordan's foreign minister made his first trip to Damascus on Feb. 15.

Assad then traveled to Oman on Feb. 20 - the first time he left Syria since the quake.

He had rarely left Syria during the war, travelling only to close allies Russia and Iran whose military support helped him turn the tide of the conflict.

Assad's 2022 visit to the UAE was his first trip to an Arab state since the 2011 outbreak of war.



Two Israelis Killed in Occupied West Bank Attack

BEIRUT (Dispatches) - A Palestinian gunman has killed two Israelis in their car in the occupied West Bank, the Israeli government said.

A joint statement from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir on Sunday said "two Israeli civilians were killed in a Palestinian terror attack" in an incident near the city of Nablus in the north of the occupied territory.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, which came as Israeli and Palestinian security officials met in Jordan to discuss ways of lowering tensions.

Medics said the casualties near Hawara, an area that sees regular friction between Palestinians and settlers, were men in their 20s.

A settlements spokesperson said they were residents of Har Bracha, a settlement 8 km (5 miles) away from the scene of the attack.

Al Jazeera's Sara Khairat, reporting from West Jerusalem, said Israeli forces were searching for the attacker.

"Israeli security forces closed down some of the checkpoints and they are still looking for the person who carried this [attack] out," she said.

Sunday's shooting attack comes amid rising tensions across the occupied West Bank following an Israeli military raid in Nablus in which 11 Palestinians were killed on Wednesday.

According to Palestinian figures, at least 65 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire since the start of this year.

On Sunday, Israeli and Palestinian representatives were holding talks in Jordan, according to the state media in the kingdom, in a "political-security" meeting aiming to restore calm after deadly violence.

Jordanian state broadcaster Al-Mamlaka said the meeting, which kicked off in the Red Sea resort of Aqaba, was "the first of its kind in years between Palestinians and Israelis with regional and international participation" and would address "the situation in the Palestinian territories".



Too Little Salt Could Be Risky for Heart Failure Patients

LONDON (Dispatches) - It may seem counterintuitive, but a new study review suggests that consuming too little salt could be harmful to heart failure patients.

Doctors currently recommend a low-sodium diet to lower blood pressure and avoid fluid buildup and swelling, which can be common symptoms for heart failure. The condition develops when the heart muscle becomes too weak or stiff to effectively pump blood to the rest of the body.

But the new meta-analysis of nine randomized, controlled trials found that restricting dietary sodium intake below the standard recommended maximum of about 2.3 grams per day did not bring additional benefits, and it also may increase the risk of death.

The findings will be presented March 5 at the American College of Cardiology's annual meeting, in New Orleans.

"Our findings showed that restricting dietary sodium to less than the usual recommendation was counterproductive in the management of heart failure," said study lead author Dr. Anirudh Palicherla, an internal medicine resident at Creighton University School of Medicine in Omaha, Neb.

"Limiting sodium is still the way to go to help manage heart failure, but the amount of restriction has been up for debate," Palicherla said in a meeting news release. "This study shows that the focus should be on establishing a safe level of sodium consumption, instead of overly restricting sodium."

While the average American eats about 3.4 grams of sodium daily, U.S. Dietary Guidelines recommend limiting that to 2.3 grams daily or less. That's a little less than 1 teaspoon of table salt.

The nine trials assessed different levels of sodium for a total of nearly 3,500 people with heart failure and included data on rates of death and hospitalization. Most of those trials were conducted between 2008 and 2022.

Researchers found that patients following a diet with a sodium intake target below 2.5 grams per day were 80% more likely to die than those following a diet with a target of 2.5 grams per day or more.

In the more restrictive studies, the sodium limits varied from 1.2 grams to 1.8 grams of sodium daily. Researchers did not find a trend toward increased hospitalizations among patients following more restrictive diets.

The designs of the clinical trials varied significantly, according to the study authors, including using different methods for tracking sodium intake. Some required participants restrict their fluid intake in addition to their sodium intake, while other studies did not.

The number of studies and total number of participants give the researchers a high level of confidence in the overall findings, even with these differences.

Future studies could help clarify the optimal targets for dietary sodium. They could also identify subgroups of heart failure patients who might benefit from more or less restriction, according to the authors.

People can limit their sodium intake by eating more fresh fruits and vegetables and cooking with basic ingredients rather than processed, boxed and canned foods and sauces. The researchers recommend asking for nutrition information or reading labels when eating out or buying prepared foods.

Findings presented at medical meetings are considered preliminary until published in a peer-reviewed journal.



Risk of Death From Heart Failure May Be Higher For Lifelong Bachelors

LONDON (Dispatches) - When heart failure strikes, being a lifelong bachelor may mean you might die sooner than women or previously married men diagnosed with the same condition, a new study suggests.

Lifetime marital history appears to be an important predictor of survival in men with heart failure, but not women. Specifically, lifelong bachelors had significantly worse long-term survival than men who had been married, separated, divorced or widowed, said senior researcher Dr. David Kao, an associate professor of medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine in Aurora.

In contrast, women with heart failure who had never been married did not appear to be at higher risk of death than those who had, he added.

"These findings suggest that marriage has some kind of beneficial effect for men that helps them survive longer after developing heart failure," Kao said. "At present, we have not identified precisely what these effects are, but they could include health-seeking behaviors, socioeconomic and family support in older age, or differences in factors like frailty and nutrition, and mood."

The lack of difference in survival between women with different marital histories could indicate that either the same factors are not as clinically beneficial in women or possibly that there are fewer deficits in those traits that are affected through marriage, Kao said.

With heart failure, the heart becomes too weak or stiff to pump blood to the body effectively. There is no cure for heart failure, but medications, dietary modifications and regular physical activity can help patients live longer and reduce symptoms such as shortness of breath, fatigue and swelling.

For the study, Kao's team used data on 6,800 American adults aged 45 to 84. Among the 94 participants who suffered from heart failure at year 10 of the study, the researchers compared survival rates from when heart failure was diagnosed and marital status over an average follow-up of five years.

The investigators found that men who had never been married were more than twice as likely to die within roughly five years after diagnosis than women of any marital status.

Lifelong bachelors were about two times more likely to die than men who were married. Moreover, widowed, divorced or separated men were not at an increased risk of dying, compared with married men, the researchers noted.

"Non-medical factors, such as relationship history, can have a significant impact on the course of heart failure," Kao said. "Furthermore, these factors may not carry the same importance for all groups; in this case, relationship history appears to be much more important in men than women. Recognition of these factors may help identify new interpersonal strategies that could help improve the ability of patients to cope with heart failure."

The findings are scheduled for presentation March 4 at the annual meeting of the American College of Cardiology, in New Orleans. Findings presented at medical meetings should be considered preliminary until published in a peer-reviewed journal. Heart failure is among the leading causes of cardiovascular-related hospitalizations and death, said Dr. Gregg Fonarow, director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center and co-chief of the UCLA division of cardiology in Los Angeles.

"Social determinants of health are increasingly recognized as important contributors to the risk of heart failure and mortality among individuals with established heart failure," Fonarow said.

"Medical therapies, when prescribed and adhered to, can markedly reduce the risk of mortality in men and women with heart failure," he said. It might be that bachelors are less likely to adhere to their medications, which may affect their survival, he suggested.



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

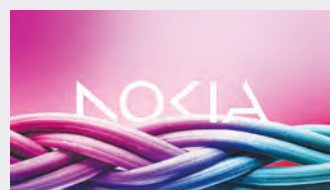


Nokia Changes Iconic Logo to Signal Strategy Shift

BARCELONA (Dispatches) - Nokia announced plans to change its brand identity for the first time in nearly 60 years, complete with a new logo, as the telecom equipment maker focuses on aggressive growth.

The new logo comprises five different shapes forming the word NOKIA. The iconic blue color of the old logo has been dropped for a range of colors depending on the use.

“There was the association to smartphones and nowadays we are a business technology company,” Chief Executive Pekka Lundmark told Reuters in an interview.



Pakistan Gov't Ceases Clearance of Bills and Salaries

ISLAMABAD (Dispatches) - As the economic situation keeps getting worse in Pakistan, the government has instructed the accountant general to halt the clearing of bills, including salaries, due to the current economic crisis, according to local media reports.

According to official sources cited by The News International, the Ministry of Finance and Revenue also gave the Accountant General of Pakistan Revenues (AGPR) instructions to suspend clearing any bills for federal ministries/divisions and connected departments till further notice.

The newspaper reported that the operational cost-related releases faced difficulties mainly due to the country's economic hardship.

Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves, which fell to a critically low level of USD 2.9 billion a few weeks ago, have now risen closer to USD 4 billion, even as the country eagerly waits for the USD 1.1 billion tranches of funding from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Ishaq Dar, the minister of finance, acknowledged that it might not be accurate but vowed to respond after verifying it.

Sources told PTI that they went to the AGPR office for clearance of their outstanding bills but were informed that the Ministry of Finance had directed them to stop clearing all the bills, including the salaries, because of the prevailing difficult financial positions.

The exact reasons could not be uncertain why the clearance of bills was stopped immediately.

The sources said the salaries and pensions of defence-related institutions had already been cleared for next month.

While meeting on February 22 with a delegation of Rothschild and Co, Finance Minister Dar said, “the government was steering the economy towards stability and growth.”

“The government is committed to completing the IMF programme and fulfilling all international obligations,” he added.

Dar's commitment to unlocking the IMF tranche was visible on February 20 when the national assembly had unanimously approved the Finance (Supplementary) Bill 2023 or “mini-budget” - a move mandatory for seeking funding.

The bill increases sales tax from 17 to 25 per cent on imports ranging from cars and household appliances to chocolates and cosmetics. In addition, a general sales tax was raised from 17 to 18 per cent.

“The prime minister will also unveil austerity measures in the next few days,” the minister told the lower house of parliament as the bill was passed, adding, “we will have to take difficult decisions”.

The country's weekly inflation rate remained persistently high during the week that ended on February 23, coming in at 2.78 per cent week over week and 41.54 per cent year over year, according to official figures released on Friday.

Russia Selling Oil Way Over Price Cap

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russia raked in significantly more money from its crude oil sales than previously thought, a group of academics have said.

Russia took in more money in the weeks that followed the oil price cap implemented on December 5 last year, calculations from academics at the Institute of International Finance, Columbia University, and the University of California show.

The calculations show that Russia sold its crude oil for about \$74 per barrel on average, according to the paper “Assessing the Impact of International Sanctions on Russian Oil Exports” published on the Social Science Research Network.

The paper studied two things: the effects of the EU embargo and the G7 price cap on Russian seaborne crude oil.

“We find that Russia was able to redirect crude oil exports from Europe to alternative markets such as India, China, and Turkey but that export earnings were curbed substantially by the sizable discounts that Russian exporters had to accept in market segments where the impending EU embargo lowered demand.”

“However,” the report goes on to say, “we do not find crude oil discounts as large as those reflected in Urals prices toward the end of 2022. In particular, prices in market segments that are unaffected by lower European demand, e.g., exports from Russia's Pacific Ocean ports, have not dropped in a meaningful way and shipments do not appear to comply with the price cap.”

“Moreover, our surprising finding of a significant share of Russian crude oil being sold well-above the price cap level of \$60 a barrel urgently calls for further investigation of these transactions and reinforces the need for stepped-up enforcement,” the authors said, and recommended that “the price caps on crude oil should be lowered as soon as possible.”

The analysis covered the four weeks following the implementation of the price cap.



Argentina in Talks With IMF to Ease Reserves Targets Amid Drought

BUENOS AIRES (Dispatches) - Argentina's government is in final talks with International Monetary Fund officials to ease foreign exchange reserves targets for 2023 under the country's \$44 billion program, two sources close to the matter told Reuters.

The move comes as the South American commodities exporter is facing the worst drought in 60 years, which has pummeled soy, corn and wheat crops, compromising already weak foreign exchange reserves.

Discussions include the impact of the drought on 2023 goals for net reserves, said an Argentina economy ministry adviser who asked not to be named because the talks were ongoing.

Talks are now focused on agreeing on exact figures, said one of the sources. An Argentine government source, who asked not to be named because discussions are private, said talks are ongoing but nothing is defined yet.

Officials for the Economy Ministry declined to comment.

A spokesperson for the IMF said that the Fund's staff and the Argentine authorities are discussing the fourth review of the programme, and it will communicate the outcome of those discussions in due course.

A group of representatives from Argentina's central bank and Economy Ministry arrived in Washington this week for the fourth review of the extended fund facility program approved in March 2022, after a failed bailout four years earlier.

Meanwhile, Economy Minister Sergio Massa met with IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva on the sidelines of the Group of 20 meetings in Bengaluru, India.

The talks to change the central bank net reserves targets for this year are pre-emptive, as the country did meet its end-December 2022 net reserves targets, another source added.

The world's top exporter of soy oil and meal is also facing a rise in import costs of energy and fertilizers due to the war in Ukraine, adding pressure to much-needed dollar reserves.

These discussions come shortly after the country decided in January to start a debt buyback of its overseas debt of up to \$1 billion. Earlier this month, IMF official Nigel Chalk said that Argentina shouldn't undermine targets to rebuild its “scarce” foreign currency reserves.

Net reserves today stand at around \$4.4 billion, according to calculations from Buenos Aires-based brokerage firm PPI Inversiones.

Under the latest review, Argentina had been set the target of net reserves to increase by \$5.5 billion at the end of March and \$9.8 billion at the end of the year.

Japanese PM Urges Worker Pay Hikes



TOKYO (Dispatches) - With backing from a major business lobby, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Sunday said Japan must spread the momentum of wage growth across the country to conquer rising inflation as annual labor negotiations wrap up next month.

For years wage growths have been slow in Japan as cautious firms hoarded a record cash pile, while curbing labor costs, despite government pressure on companies to raise pay.

The government has put a strong focus on wage hikes to stimulate private consumption that makes up more than half of the economy, hoping to stoke a positive cycle of economic growth and wealth distribution under Kishida's new capitalism agenda.

“Above all, wage hikes that beat price hikes are needed,” Kishida told an annual gathering of his ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which lays out its policy agenda for this year.

“The wave of wage hikes must spread to small firms and local areas to enhance competitiveness amid heated competition to attract workers amid labor shortages,” Kishida said.

While achieving “structural wage hikes,” Kishida pledged to continue to take steps to curb energy and food prices to ease inflation woes on households.

Masakazu Tokura, head of Japan's biggest business lobby Keidanren, expressed support for the wage push.

“Now is the crucial stage to revive a strong economy. Structural wage hikes and human capital investment are vital...” he said.

At this year's labor talks, large firms are expected to offer the biggest pay hikes in 26 years, or an average of 2.85%, a poll of 33 economists by Japan Economic Research Center (JERC) suggests.

Still, that pace would fall short of consumer inflation which is running at 4.2%, and the 5% targeted by Rengo, Japan Trade Union Confederation.

Moreover, the smaller companies that provide most of Japan's jobs generally cannot increase pay, business owners, economists and officials say.

IMF Flags Debt Restructuring Hurdles

BENGALURU (Dispatches) - Group of 20 (G20) nations have some disagreements over restructuring debt for distressed economies, the chief of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said, adding that banning private cryptocurrencies should be an option.

India's G20 presidency comes as its South Asian neighbours Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Pakistan are seeking urgent IMF funds due to an economic slowdown caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war.

China, the world's largest bilateral creditor, urged the group of big economies on Friday to conduct a fair, objective and in-depth analysis of the causes of global debt issues as clamour grows for lenders to take a large haircut, or accept losses, on loans.

“On debt restructuring, while there are still some disagreements, we now have the global sovereign debt roundtable with consideration of all public and private creditors,” IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva told reporters after chairing the roundtable with Indian Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

“We just finished a session in which it was clear that there is a commitment to bridge differences for the benefit of countries.”

U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said there were no “deliverables” from the meeting, which was mostly organisational. Further discussions of the panel, which includes major bilateral creditors including China, India and the G7 countries, several debtor countries, are planned around the time of the IMF and World Bank spring meetings in April.

World's Best Green Factory Now in Bangladesh

DHAKA (Dispatches) - Bangladesh now not only has the most green garment factories but yesterday also became home to a textile factory which scored the highest rating of United States Green Building Council.

Green Textile Limited Unit 4 scored 104 out of 110 in a platinum level of the council's green building certification program Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), which is used worldwide.

A joint concern of Epic Group and Envoy

Legacy, the factory is situated in Nijhury Baraid Bazar at Bhaluka in Mymensingh, around 70 kilometres away from the capital Dhaka.

The previous record holder was PT Ungaran Sari Garments Pringapus 6 and 7 in Indonesia. It had been holding the top spot since May 2018 scoring 101 out of 110.

Moreover, two weeks ago, Bangladesh became home to 52 out of the 100 top-rated green industrial units worldwide, according to the council.

This came about on February 1 when KDS IDR Limited, a garment factory in Kalurghat, received a LEED platinum certification.

Platinum is the LEED program's highest certification level while gold the second highest and silver third. A fourth level for industrial units is for just meeting minimum requirements.

A global champion in terms of the number of LEED certified factories, Bangladesh has 63 platinum-level garment units, 110 gold, 10 silver and four just LEED certified.

Besides, over 500 other garment factories are awaiting LEED certification for their green initiatives, according to the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).

China has the second highest number of platinum-level factories with only 10 and Pakistan third with nine. India and Sri Lanka have six each while Taiwan and Vietnam four.

Meanwhile, Myanmar and the US each have two platinum-level factories while Ireland, Italy, Indonesia, Mexico, Poland, Paraguay, Romania, Turkey and the UAE have one each, according to the council.

Local businesspeople started building LEED certified structures following two industrial disasters -- the Tazreen Fashions fire in 2012 and Rana Plaza collapse in 2013 -- in a bid to brighten their image and thereby attract more international retailers and brands.

It is not mandatory for international clothing retailers and brands to pay extra for goods sourced from LEED certified industries even though these manufacturers spend millions to make their factories green.

Diplomat Rejects Claims on Iran Closing UK Mission in Tehran

LONDON (IRNA) - Chargé d'affaires Mehdi Hosseini Matin rejected the claims of a London-based website regarding closure of the UK embassy in Tehran.

“Secret plots or wishful thinkings by enemies against normal relationships between western countries including UK and Iran,” Hosseini Matin wrote in his Twitter account on Monday.

“Unsubstantial allegations & fake news by JC are categorically denied. IR is in favour of constructive & normal relations with GB on condition of mutual respect,” he added. The Jewish Chronicle earlier claimed that Iran is preparing to close the British Embassy in Tehran.



Incoming World Bank Chief Faces Tests Before He Gets to Climate

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Ajay Banga, U.S. President Joe Biden’s pick to run the World Bank, will face a tough slate of issues around the institution’s finances and capital structure from the get-go, thorny problems he must address as he reshapes the bank into a force for combating climate change on top of its traditional role as a poverty fighter.

Biden and his team have ambitious plans for overhauling the 77-year-old World Bank, which critics have said under its outgoing chief David Malpass was too timid in financing climate initiatives and still funds substantial fossil fuel projects across the developing world.

The key to it all, of course, is money, and as organized and funded now, the World Bank would be stretched to meet those goals.

Banga’s nomination, announced on Thursday, won a round of rapid endorsements as top finance leaders met on Friday in India, a sign his ascendance by early May - or possibly sooner - is all but assured, though other member countries can also submit nominations through March 29 before the World Bank’s governors choose the president.

Even before he takes office, the former Mastercard Inc chief is expected to start working his numerous constituencies as early as April when top officials meet in Washington at the World Bank and International Monetary Fund’s spring meetings. Member countries are expected to approve initial moves to stretch the bank’s balance sheet to free up more funds for climate projects, pandemic preparedness and other priorities.

If confirmed, he will jump into high-profile talks in June hosted by French President Emmanuel Macron and Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley focused on developing a new global financial pact to reform how rich countries finance poor countries grappling with climate-driven damages.

Under Banga’s leadership, Mastercard became among the first companies to set net-zero emission targets under the Science Based Targets initiative. He also serves on the advisory board of Beyond Net Zero, a climate finance fund.

Biden administration officials touted Banga’s decades of experience building global companies and public-private partnerships to fund responses to climate change and migration.

“Ajay has proven his ability as a manager of large institutions and understands investment and the mobilization of capital to power the green transition,” said John Kerry, the U.S. special envoy on climate change.

An even tougher challenge then awaits Banga in winning a capital increase from member countries. This will be especially difficult for the World Bank’s top shareholder, the United States, due to political brawling between the Biden administration and the Republican-majority House of Representatives. The House has major sway over the country’s purse strings and its leaders are not disposed to widen the World Bank’s role in fighting climate change.

In fiscal 2022, the World Bank committed more than \$104 billion to projects around the globe, according to the bank’s annual report. Experts say countries will need trillions of dollars to fight and adapt to climate change.

Before an increase can even be considered, U.S. officials say changes in World Bank debt-to-equity ratios and other rules could free up more funds for the climate fight, given the reluctance of a politically divided U.S. Congress to appropriate more funds in a direct capital increase.

An independent report prepared for the Group of 20 major economies said changing the way the bank and other multilateral development banks (MDBs) operate could unlock hundreds of billions of dollars in additional funds.

But some middle-income countries worry that could weaken the bank’s AAA credit rating and raise borrowing costs, Mark Malloch Brown, president of the Open Society Foundations told Reuters.

“The middle-income countries worry ... that the cost of borrowing will increase because of the refusal of the West to put up more cash.”

Iskander Erzini Vernoit, director of the Morocco-based climate think tank Imal Initiative for Climate and Development, said the U.S. - which has only contributed \$2 billion of the \$100 billion in climate finance rich countries have pledged - needed to invest more.

“Playing the blame game with management of the MDBs will only get you so far, and not far enough to finance tackling the polycrisis at scale,” he said.

IRGC...

FROM PAGE 1



On Thursday, the chief commander of Iran’s Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said military experts at his force are now developing and manufacturing supersonic cruise missiles, adding that the specialists are also capable of intercepting and tracking satellites with radars on the ground.

“Since a cruise missile flies the major portion of its flight path on a low-altitude trajectory, it is no different from a fixed-wing aircraft which cannot travel at a high velocity. We are, therefore, developing cruise missiles capable of travelling at supersonic speeds. The process throughout which a supersonic ballistic missile is guided to strike a moving target in the sea is a fairly complicated one, the likes of which have never been seen before,” General Hossein Salami said at a ceremony marking Pasdar Day (IRGC Serviceman Day) in Tehran.

“Today, we can intercept satellites with the help of radars positioned on the ground. Such great advances have been made by the Iranian youth. Young Iranian military forces can now hit any moving ship from a distance of thousands of kilometers away, and can even define the exact point of strike, so that the crew of the target ship would remain unharmed,” he added.

The IRGC chief said the Americans are aggressively seeking to win the hearts and minds of the Iranian nation, and cherish it as a strategic dream.

He pointed to the expansion of Iran’s domain of action, saying the Islamic Republic is now present on the coasts of the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea and has “decomposed the enemy”.

“The Islamic Revolution has kicked the enemy out of its strategic shelter and forced it into operational expansion,” Salami stated, adding that the enemy suffers a lack of initiative.

He said the only way to deal with the arrogant powers is by means of the “language of force”, because the enemy is unfamiliar with the power of logic, while it accepts the logic of power.

Then the commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy of Iran recounted the numerous feats that have been achieved by the force in line with Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei’s call on it to expand its maritime presence.

The Navy embarked on equipping itself with oceangoing vessels “following the Leader’s call on the IRGC to establish a presence in distant and oceanic waters,” Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri told a televised interview on Thursday.

“We now possess three oceangoing vessels, named Shahid (Martyr) Roudaki, Shahid Mahdavi, and Shahid Bahman Baqeri,” the commander added.

He described the Shahid Mahdavi vessel as a “mobile naval base” equipped with four 350-kilometer (217-mile)-range missiles. The vessel can also be outfitted with 750-kilometer (466-mile)-range missiles, and can carry three helicopters, the commander added.

The Shahid Bahman Baqeri vessel enjoys a 180-meter-long landing strip that can be used by unmanned aerial vehicles, he noted, saying the vessel can carry as many as 30 Ashura-class speedboats.

According to the official, the boats and the country’s Tareq-class speedboats are “soon” to be outfitted with respectively 12-kilometer (7-mile)-range and 180-kilometer (111-mile)-range missiles.

These are just small parts of achievements of the IRGC which have been revealed as it has many more achievements which have been kept secret and will be unveiled in its due time.

So we see the West is right to get angry at the IRGC’s many achievements and above all at the IRGC’s strong determination in defending the Islamic Revolution against the threats and bullies. Therefore, Iranian people owe a great deal to the IRGC the current peace and security in the country because as long as the IRGC exists and acts strongly, no one can look daggers at Iran and we can tell enemies to get angry and to die in anger because we will never retreat an inch from supporting the IRGC despite all false accusations and painting negative picture of it.

Night Sky: Moon to Align With Converging Planets



LONDON (Dispatches) - Evening stargazers may have noticed Venus shining bright above the western horizon in recent weeks, appearing higher in the sky with each passing night.

The planet will continue to be a prominent feature through the remainder of February, and on Thursday evening, it will have some company.

The crescent moon will appear to align with Venus and nearby Jupiter shortly after sunset, an alignment that will be visible from the heart of bustling cities to the dark sky parks nestled in the remote corners of the country.

A similar alignment was visible on Tuesday evening when the crescent moon appeared below Venus and Jupiter, providing a preview of what stargazers can expect to see on Thursday after nightfall. On Wednesday evening, the moon appeared side-by-side with Jupiter.

The moon, Venus and Jupiter aligned in the evening sky.

The crescent moon appeared below Venus and Jupiter on Tuesday. A similar alignment will be visible on Thursday. Photo courtesy of AccuWeather

Thursday’s astronomical event will be best seen one to two hours after sunset before the trio sets in the western sky. Sunset on Thursday takes place at 5:40 p.m. EST in New York City, 5:33 p.m. CST in Chicago and 5:44 p.m. PST in Los Angeles.

No special equipment is required to see the cosmic objects as they are all bright enough to see without a telescope or binoculars.

Venus will appear at the bottom of the alignment, shining brighter than Jupiter, which will be sandwiched in the middle of the trio. The crescent moon will glow at the top of the celestial triad and, upon close inspection, may look slightly different than normal.

While only a sliver of the moon will appear to be illuminated by the sun on Thursday evening, the rest of the planet-facing side of the moon could be dimly lit by a phenomenon known as earthshine.

Earthshine is most noticeable when the moon is in a crescent phase. Sunlight reflecting off the Earth is cast onto the Earth-facing side of the moon, allowing sky watchers to see the entire face of the lunar surface, not just the small portion basking in direct sunlight.

The moon will drift away from Jupiter and Venus throughout the remainder of February, but the two planets will continue to be the main feature in the night sky as they appear to move closer and closer to each other.

Wednesday is the start of meteorological spring and will be the best night to observe the planets as they will appear extremely close to each other. The distance separating the two planets in the sky will be less than the width of a pinky finger held out at arm’s length.

UK Car Manufacturers Are Slowly Shifting to Electric Vehicles

LONDON (Dispatches) - Car production in Britain fell slightly in January as thousands continued the shift towards electric vehicles which experienced a near 50 percent increase.

Despite global economic instability, car production fell just 0.3 percent last month, which was welcomed by the industry as a sign of market stability.

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT), latest figures show that output of new vehicles totalled 68,575 units, a fall of 215 on the previous month. It added that the shift is evidence of the UK’s ability to produce EVs to sell abroad, despite the SMMT also reporting there had been a 1.5 percent decline in output for export.

Manufacturers have also shifted away from petrol and diesel, with 28,329 electric cars being purchased, an increase of 49.9 percent. The jump, which includes combined battery electric, plug-in hybrid and hybrid electric vehicles, represents 41.3 percent of cars made in January, which is almost a record monthly share.

The SMMY said there are about 40m vehicles on the road in the UK, with around 774,000 produced each year – well down from more than 1.5m in 2017. As of 2021, it was a more than £60bn industry.

Despite the optimism however, the SMMT’s chief executive warned against “increasing protectionism which, if not challenged or mitigated, could put the UK at a disadvantage” on the global stage.

SMMT said the slight drop was due to structural changes, as the industry changed from car to van-making at one major plant. It added that supply chain issues still affected some manufacturers.

Iran Supports China’s Position on Ukraine Crisis

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran has declared its support for an initiative offered by China to help settle the ongoing crisis in Ukraine, saying it is time for genuine diplomacy to be activated to end the conflict between Moscow and Kiev.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry made the remark in a statement issued on Sunday, two days after China released its initiative for putting an end to the Ukraine war, officially known as China’s Position on the Political Settlement of the Ukraine Crisis.

China’s initiative, among other points, urges respect for the sovereignty of all countries, stressing that conflict and war benefit no one and calling for the resumption of peace talks between Ukraine and Russia.

“Iran believes that the elements reflected in this document are enough for commencing negotiations for a mutually agreed framework for terminating the military activities in Ukraine, stopping unilateral measures, and restoring the situation in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations,” the ministry’s statement said.

The statement affirmed that Iran is ready to contribute to peaceful settlement of the Ukraine crisis with the main goal being early termination of the military activities by the two neighboring countries.

“It is the time for genuine diplomacy to be activated in order to end the conflict ... rather than advertising and fueling the war, as well as accusing others ... and insisting on unilateral measures,” the statement added.

Moscow started what it called a special military operation last February in order to defend the pro-Russian population in the eastern Ukrainian regions of Luhansk and Donetsk against persecution by Kiev and also to “de-Nazify” its neighbor.

Moscow says the West’s anti-Russian agenda, including its eagerness to integrate Ukraine into NATO and the subsequent expansion of the Western military alliance toward Russia’s borders, forced the country to launch the war on Ukraine.

Ever since the onset of the conflict, the United States and its allies have provided Ukraine with billions of dollars worth of heavy weapons, while slapping Russia with many rounds of unilateral sanctions; steps that Moscow says will only prolong the war.

“Iran denounces war and unilateral sanctions [imposed on various countries by the West] and reaffirms its absolute preference for dialogue and diplomacy for settling disputes,” the Iranian Foreign Ministry said.

Iran also condemned “the Cold War era hegemonic mentality” of the United States and certain other Western countries, which is manifest in their “national policies and regional arrangements (such as NATO),” describing it as “one of the root causes of many crises in the world, including the ongoing one in Ukraine.”

Iran Always...

FROM PAGE 1

He added that Iran is ready to work toward an agreement on the JCPOA and return of all signatories to their commitments under the deal within the framework of negotiations carried out in the Austrian capital city of Vienna and based on messages exchanged between Tehran and Washington through non-paper contacts.

Iran’s top diplomat stressed that any such agreement must guarantee the interests of all parties, while respecting the Islamic Republic of Iran’s red lines as well.

“If the American side acts realistically within the framework of the message it has sent and avoids repeating its previous hypocritical media remarks, we will not be far from an agreement,” Amirabdollahian said.

Iran’s foreign minister added, “The problem, however, is that Americans always issue contradictory diplomatic and media messages. I mean, they send positive diplomatic messages while making different media remarks. We hope that [this time around] Americans would act realistically and avoid being hypocritical.”

Pakistan Sending Team...

FROM PAGE 1

The project was supposed to be completed by December 2014, with operations beginning on January 1, 2015, in a segmented approach, with Iran building its portion and Pakistan building its own.

According to the original agreement, Pakistan was to pay Iran \$1 million per day beginning January 1, 2015, as stipulated in the arbitration clause. However, under 2019’s amended agreement between the Inter-State Gas Systems (ISGS) of Pakistan and the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC), Tehran has vowed not to go to any international court if construction was delayed, and Pakistan would not pay any compensation to Iran until 2024.

Iran has already completed a portion of the pipeline within its borders, from the gas field to the Pakistan border. Once completed and commissioned on both sides, the pipeline will allow Pakistan to begin receiving 750 million cubic feet of gas from Iran on a daily basis.

Duplantis Breaks Own Pole Vault World Record

PARIS (Dispatches) - Sweden's Armand Duplantis broke his own pole vault world record, clearing 6.22 metres to add one centimetre to his previous mark at the World Athletics Indoor Tour Silver meeting in Clermont-Ferrand, France.

After knocking the bar in his first two attempts at the height, the 23-year-old Olympic champion cleared the mark with room to spare on the third try, letting out a cheer as the crowd went into a frenzy of celebration.

LICENCE HOLDER: SOKHAN GOSTAR INSTITUTE

Switchboard:

(+98) (21) 44253448

Public Relations Tel:

(+98)(21) 44253450

Editorial Board: 44253449

Public Relations Fax:

(+98)(21) 44253395

Advertising Department:

Tel/Fax:(+98) (21) 44253335-9/44253234

Website:

http://www.irannewsdaily.com

E-Mail Address:

info@irannewsdaily.com

ISSN 1024-6053

P.O. Box: 15875-8551

Address: No 13, Pajouhesh St., Golestan II St, Golestan St.Marzdaran Blvd., Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Printed by:Honar Sarzmin Sabz

Distributed by:

Cities of Iran Cultural and Artistic Institute

Managing Director: Fereydoon Taherpour Asl

Australia Win Women's T20 World Cup for Sixth Time

CAPE TOWN (Dispatches) - Australia won the Women's T20 World Cup for the sixth time when they beat South Africa by 19 runs in the final at Newlands.

Opening batter Beth Mooney anchored the Australian innings, scoring an unbeaten 74 in a total of 156 for six.

South Africa were never up with the required run rate and were restricted to 137 for six despite opener Laura Wolvaardt hitting 61 off 48 balls.

Tatum Seals Celtics Thriller Over Sixers, Embiid

LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - Jayson Tatum drained a three-pointer with less than two seconds remaining to give the Boston Celtics a thrilling 110-107 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers in a heavyweight Eastern Conference clash.

The 571st meeting between the two NBA rivals lived up to its billing with the lead changing hands five times in an enthralling contest which ebbed and flowed before Tatum's stunning late winner.

Tatum had struggled to find his range throughout the game at Philadelphia's Wells Fargo Center but finally delivered when it mattered to give Boston victory on a night that saw Sixers talisman Joel Embiid score 41 points in vain.

Embiid almost forced overtime following Tatum's late three-pointer, launching a full-length three-pointer which found the net but was just a fraction too late to beat the buzzer.

"I wasn't playing my best, just wanted to find a way to impact the game at both ends," said Tatum, who finished with 18 points, 13 rebounds and six assists after going 7-for-17 from the field.

"It's tough to win in this league. We just showed tonight our resilience and ability to figure it out."

The Celtics had overturned a 15-point deficit in the third quarter to put themselves in a winning position, with Al Horford coming up big with 15 points to help spark the rally.

Jaylen Brown led the Celtics scoring with 26 points on a night when six Boston players finished in double digits.

"It's a hell of a team win," Tatum added. "(Jaylen) was playing well the whole night but guys everywhere were making plays, and that just speaks to the depth of our team and what we're trying to accomplish."

Tatum admitted he had looked away when Embiid launched his desperate late heave that came close to forcing overtime.

"I turned around - I didn't even want to see it," Tatum said.

"It's the NBA where amazing happens - I'm just glad it didn't count."

The victory extended Boston's lead at the



top of the Eastern Conference at 44-17, one game ahead of Milwaukee, second with 42-17. Philadelphia remain third on 39-20 following the loss.

The defeat was hard on Embiid, who had been magnificent throughout to help Philadelphia move 15 points clear at 67-52 early in the third period.

Embiid made 17 of 18 from the free throw line and finished with 12 rebounds and five assists in addition to his 41 points.

James Harden added 21 points with Tobias Harris pitching in with 19.

Elsewhere on Saturday, a meeting between the top two teams in the Western Conference saw the Memphis Grizzlies take down the top-ranked Denver Nuggets 112-94.

Memphis took the lead near the end of the first quarter and never looked back, at one stage stretching their lead to 35 points against an out-of-sorts Denver team.

Denver's reigning two-time NBA Most Valuable Player was restricted to 15 points to lead the Nuggets scoring. Only four Denver players made double-digits.

Memphis meanwhile spread their offensive threat around with Ja Morant leading the way with 23 points and Tyus Jones adding 17 off the bench including five three-pointers.

The New York Knicks stretched their winning streak to five games with a 128-106 blowout over the New Orleans Pelicans, thanks to 28 points from Julius Randle and 25 from RJ Barrett.

In Charlotte, the Hornets stung the Miami Heat 108-103 thanks to a career-high 18 points from Mark Williams and 21 points from Gordon Hayward.

Tyler Herro led the Miami scoring with 33 points -- including six three-pointers -- while Jimmy Butler added 28 points for Miami, who fell to 32-39 following the loss.



CRANS-MONTANA (Dispatches) - Italy's Sofia Goggia bounced back from her world championships disappointment in the World Cup downhill at Crans-Montana.

Goggia was hot favorite to claim downhill gold at Meribel last week but ended up disqualified, with the world title going to Swiss outsider Jasmine Flury.

Goggia put that reverse behind her to notch up her 22nd World Cup win and tighten her grip on a fourth downhill World Cup crown.

The Olympic silver medallist, who bagged gold in the 2018 Pyeongchang Games, came in 0.15sec clear of her compatriot Federica Brignone, with Laura Gauche (0.41) in third for the French skier's first podium finish on the elite circuit.

Goggia's win in a race delayed 24 hours due to poor conditions at the Swiss ski station came after an inauspicious build-up with a fall in training on Friday.

That accident left her walking "with difficulty" on Saturday, the 30-year-old said.

But she delivered when it mattered most with all her habitual verve and risk-taking to secure a fifth downhill of the season.

Inter Title Hopes Fade With More Misery in Bologna

Bologna (Dispatches) - Inter Milan suffered a damaging 1-0 defeat at Bologna which virtually ended their slim hopes of winning the Serie A title.

At the same ground where their title aspirations were dealt a fatal blow last season, Riccardo Orsolini's goal condemned Inter to another loss.

Simone Inzaghi's team are second in the standings on 47 points from 24 matches, 18 behind leaders Napoli who beat Empoli 2-0 on Saturday.

Inter will also be looking over their shoulders with concern at AC Milan and AS Roma, who are level on 44 points and are yet to play in this round of fixtures. Bologna are seventh on 35 points.

Bologna thought they had taken the lead at a rain-sodden Stadio Renato Dall'Ara through Musa Barrow in the 12th minute, only for the effort to be ruled out following a VAR review.

Minutes later, Roberto Soriano rattled the woodwork on the rebound after Andre Onana had parried Andrea Cambiaso's volley into his path.

Inzaghi, missing Federico Dimarco, Milan Skriniar and Joaquin Correa through injury, rested Nicolo Barella among a raft of changes from their midweek Champions League win over Porto, and his much-changed Inter team lacked fluidity.

They had brief spells of possession in the first half, but created few clear-cut chances as Lautaro Martinez headed an Alessandro Bastoni cross just wide of the target and Henrikh Mkhitaryan twice fired over the bar.

Bologna continued to press forward after the break, and Andre Onana kept his side in the game with two crucial saves in quick succession, getting a hand to a Soriano shot before smothering Dominguez's effort from the edge of the area.

Romelu Lukaku and substitute Edin Dzeko each had a shot on target, but it was Bologna who broke the deadlock in the 76th minute when Orsolini raced on to Jerdy Schouten's pass and powered a shot into the net.

"An incredible match in which many things happened. They cancelled a goal for us, we put Inter down by playing really well and we are satisfied," Orsolini told DAZN.



Alcaraz to Face Norrie again for ATP Rio Title

RIO DE JANEIRO (Dispatches) - Top-seeded defending champion Carlos Alcaraz fended off hard-hitting Nicolas Jarry 6-7 (2/7), 7-5, 6-0 to reach the final of the ATP Rio Open.

Alcaraz lined up a title rematch with second-seeded Briton Cameron Norrie, who out-last-ed Bernabe Zapata Miralles 6-2, 3-6, 7-6 (7/3).

It will be the second meeting between Alcaraz and Norrie in as many tournaments, after the Spaniard's narrow victory in the Buenos Aires final.

"It's going to be a very tough match, Cameron is at a great level, he has already shown it in previous matches," Alcaraz said in an on-court television interview.

Alcaraz's Argentina triumph cemented his return from a four-month injury layoff. The 19-year old was sidelined late in 2022 with a torn abdominal muscle and he withdrew from the Australian Open in January after picking up a leg injury in training.

His fitness was tested against Jarry, a former world number 38 now ranked 139th as he tries to climb back after serving an 11-month doping suspension in 2020.

Man Utd Win League Cup to End Trophy Drought

LONDON (Dispatches) - Manchester United clinched their first major trophy for six years with a ruthless 2-0 win against Newcastle in the League Cup final at Wembley.

Erik ten Hag's side took control by half-time thanks to Casemiro's header and a Sven Botman own goal and held firm despite Newcastle's second-half pressure.

United's first silverware since 2017, when they won the League Cup and the Europa League in the Jose Mourinho era, was just reward for a mature display that underlined the impressive work done by Dutchman Ten Hag since he arrived from Ajax last year.

The celebrations that accompanied United's sixth League Cup triumph could be the first of many trophy parades on the evidence of Ten Hag's transformative first season.

United remain challengers on three other fronts, sitting third in the Premier League and with an FA Cup fifth round tie against West Ham on Wednesday followed by a Europa League last 16 tie against Real Betis in March.

After 10 years in the wilderness since Alex Ferguson retired having led them to their last Premier League title in 2013, United are finally emerging from one of the darkest period in the club's illustrious history.

United finished a dismal sixth in the Premier League last season, but Ten Hag has swiftly masterminded their return to relevance



Murray Bullish About Joining 800-Win Club

LONDON (Dispatches) - Andy Murray was on the verge of retirement in 2019 due to a nagging hip issue and faced an uncertain future after a second surgery the following year, but the former world number one is now targeting 800 career wins after a run to the Doha final.

The 35-year-old fell to a 6-4 6-4 defeat by Daniil Medvedev in the Qatar Open final on Saturday in only his fourth ATP title clash since returning to the tour.

But the Scot said that he still had a lot to achieve despite playing with a partly metal hip. "It's important to have goals and targets and some of those goals are different to what they were 5-10 years ago. But I have ambitions of winning tournaments and having deep runs in majors, winning a certain number of matches in my career," Murray said.

"I'd like to try to get to 800 match wins, which I think I'm like 75 (77) away from. There are little things that you can do to keep yourself motivated. Part of it is seeing how far I can go with the physical limitation I have."

Murray played four straight three-set matches in Doha and showed his battling qualities in the semi-final by saving five match points against Jiri Lehecka on Friday to reach his 71st ATP final.

"I didn't know how much I was going to be able to play or if I'd be able to compete at this level again," three-times Grand Slam champion Murray added.

