

Iran's Crude Oil Production Increased 61,000 Barrels Per Day (bpd) in May Compared to the Previous Month to Reach 2.679m bpd, According to OPEC's Latest Monthly Report Published

IRAN NEWS

Banking System Has paid 5.151 Quadrillion rials (About \$10.85b) of Facilities in the First Two Months of The Current Year, Registering a 26.2-Percent Rise From the Figure in The Same Period of the Previous Year

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Sanctions Undermine Efforts To Combat Climate Change

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations says unilateral sanctions act as barriers to the targeted countries' contributions to global efforts aimed at tackling climate change problems, demanding an immediate stop to the coercive measures.

Amir Saeid Iravani made the remarks in an address to the United Nations Security Council session entitled "Climate Change, Peace and Security" in New York on Tuesday.

"Iran, like other nations, confronts environmental challenges and climate change impacts such as pollution, water scarcity, sand and dust storms, desertification, and biodiversity degradation.

"These challenges are worsened by restrictions on accessing foreign goods and services due to unilateral coercive measures imposed by the United States," he said.

Iravani highlighted that illegal US sanctions impede international funding, hinder renewable energy investments as well as access to environmentally sound technology, and restrict joint environmental research and educational opportunities.

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Tehran, Managua Bolster Ties Against Arrogant Powers



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - President Ebrahim Raisi says the Iranian nation has succeeded in turning the United States' sanctions and threats into opportunities.

"The U.S. sought to stop our nation through sanctions and threats, but not only our nation did not give in, it created an opportunity out of threats and sanctions and made progress," Raisi said after he was officially welcomed by his Nicaraguan counterpart, Daniel Ortega, upon arrival in Managua on Tuesday evening local time.

He argued that the Nicaraguan people's resistance against excessive demands and hegemonic powers led to their victory, adding that the two nations share a common desire for independence, freedom and justice.

He rejected "false" claims by Western powers about their advocacy for democracy and human rights and urged the West, especially the U.S., to respect the governments that are based on people's votes. "but they do the opposite," he said.

Raisi compared the U.S. role in creating Daesh to the Islamic Republic's support for the fight against terrorism, saying, "They claim to fight terrorism but they martyred [Iran's] anti-terror hero General Qassem Soleimani."

The Iranian president further noted that Tehran and Managua enjoy "strategic" relations. He expressed the Islamic Republic's readiness to improve mutual ties in various sectors, particularly science and technology.

Ortega, for his part, said the Iranian and Nicaraguan revolutions have deep roots in the fight against the dominance of arrogant powers, especially the United States.

He said imperial powers intrinsically seek to dominate other countries, and they exert pressure on independent countries under the pretext of human rights and democracy.

The President of Nicaragua described hegemony as part of the nature of imperialism and added, "The arrogant put pressure on independent countries under the pretext of human rights and democracy, but we will stand against them with strength."

Heading a high-ranking politico-economic delegation, Raisi arrived in Nicaragua on the second leg of his three-nation tour of Latin America. Earlier, he visited Venezuela and will set off for Cuba later.

Upon the arrival of President Raisi to Nicaragua, attendance observed one-minute silence for the late commander of the IRGC Quds forces commander, Lt. Gen Soleimani.

At the official ceremony attended by Daniel Ortega, the President of Nicaragua, senior officials and the people of Managua the capital city of the country invited and hosted President Raisi and Iranian high-ranking officials, attendance observed a one-minute silence to honor Iranian Martyr Lt. General Soleimani, Late commander of the IRGC Quds Forces commander and the hero of the fight against terrorism.

Tehran Denies Replicating China's Internet Controls

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's telecoms minister Issa Zarepour has denied suggestions that the country is replicating China's model of internet controls, saying the country has its own system and model of expanding the internet.

"In China, a special project has been implemented and it has its own home-grown platforms but we have our own expansion model and of course we are seeking to cooperate and interact with all countries including China," Zarepour was quoted as saying in a report by the Iranian telecoms ministry.

The minister made the remarks in response to a journalist who asked him whether Iran's internet expansion model is based on the current Chinese system.

However, the minister said the Iran's cooperation with China will mostly focus on the expansion of the communication infrastructure in the country as he said that the Chinese are global pioneers in the field.

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ViewPoint

By: Hamid Reza Naghashian

China Now a Game Changer In Middle East, World

In recent years, major impartial and fair analysts had claimed that China would soon replace the U.S. as the world economy number one and they have claimed that the U.S. was declining and China would be the world superpower but many people used to laugh at it and even the Chinese themselves had doubt on this prediction but recent developments in the world have made the Chinese more determined to replace the U.S. as world superpower in all fields and not only in the economic sphere.

The Chinese government in recent decades has tried to improve the economy and to have dominance in the world economy to topple the U.S. from the top spot but Beijing has realized that it would not be possible unless it boosts its political influence along with its economic one and for this reason Beijing has adopted new policies to play more influential roles in the world in terms of politics and in recent months Beijing has become a political game changer and it has acted as a mediator between some countries to improve its political influence.

Since the Middle East is an important and crucial region, Beijing has started its political activities and roles from this region and expanded it to Honduras in recent days. The mediation between Iran and Saudi Arabia was an outstanding political initiative of Beijing which stunned the world and China has succeeded in bringing Tehran and Riyadh together while for years the U.S. had failed and Israel had been trying to keep the rift between Tehran and Riyadh.

Now it is reported that China is boosting its relation with Saudi Arabia which was once the close ally of Washington. According to reports, the senior officials of Saudi Arabia and China participated in a two-day Arab-China Business Conference in Riyadh, agreeing to advance ties amid changing regional and global dynamics.

Hosted by Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Investment and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the forum aimed to strengthen trade relations between China and Arab countries and marked another significant step towards the end of American monopoly in the Arab world.

It was described as the largest Arab-Chinese business event with more than 3,000 attendees, including governmental officials, traders, investors, and political and economic experts from China and two dozen Arabian countries, who explored mutually beneficial investment opportunities across key economic sectors.

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Iran, Bahrain Likely to Restore Diplomatic Ties Soon

TEHRAN (MNA) - Bahrain is likely to resume diplomatic ties with Iran "sometime soon," the top US diplomat for the Middle East said.

Speaking about the possibility of Bahrain restoring diplomatic ties with Iran, US Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Barbara Leaf told lawmakers, "I think it will happen sometime soon."

Bahrain followed Saudi Arabia's decision by severing diplomatic relations with Iran on January 4, 2016, after Iranian protesters, enraged by the execution of prominent Shia cleric Sheikh Nimr Baqir al-Nimr by the Saudi government, stormed its diplomatic mission in Iran.

Iran and Saudi Arabia announced in March they would restore diplomatic ties and Iran reopened its embassy in Riyadh on June 6.

Bahrain welcomed the agreement formed between Saudi Arabia and Iran under the auspices of China to resume diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Earlier on Monday, Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Nasser Kan'ani said that Bahrain officials announced their readiness to restore ties and Iran is also interested in expanding and developing relations with all Islamic, Arab, and neighboring countries.

He also expressed hope to see a positive trend in relations with Bahrain.

U.S. Bid to Isolate Iran, Russia With Sanctions Impossible

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Russian Ambassador to Tehran Alexey Yurievich Dedov says it is "impossible" for the United States and its allies to succeed in isolating Iran and Russia through sanctions.

During an exclusive interview with Press TV on Tuesday, Dedov spoke about a host of issues, including sanctions targeting the two countries as well as Russia's "special military operation" in Ukraine.

Asked about U.S. attempts to isolate Iran and Russia, he quipped: "I am afraid they are too sure of themselves." "You are right that they tried to isolate Russia, [and] they tried to isolate Iran," he said, adding, however, "the task is impossible."

It is not possible to isolate Russia or Iran, and "we can see it," he added.

The Russian envoy further explained that Russia's trade exchanges with India and China have grown significantly despite the U.S.-led sanctions, adding that his country's trade with Iran is also growing at a good pace.

The United States and its European allies have been spearheading tough economic sanctions against Russia ever since it launched what it calls a special military operation in Ukraine in February 2022.

Iran has also been hit by unilateral sanctions imposed by Washington after former president Donald Trump declared an unprovoked withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), commonly known as the Iran deal, in May 2018.

Russia and Iran - the first and second most-sanctioned countries in the world - have been cooperating to neutralize the sanctions by finding alternative ways to trade with other nations.

The Russian diplomat also said Moscow's ongoing special operation in Ukraine is not in fact an operation against Kiev, but "against forces of the West which try to impose their will over the whole territory of the world."

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Iran Seeks Road Transits With Qatar, UAE

TEHRAN (IP) - The Spokesman of Iran's Government reported the administration's permission for road transportation to and from UAE and Qatar.

On the sidelines of the cabinet session on Wednesday, June 14, The Spokesman of Iran's Government told reporters about two other ratifications in the session, besides the transport with UAE and Qatar.

Ali Bahadori said that the cabinet also approved Iran's judicial cooperation with Vietnam and Zimbabwe as one of the other international approvals of the administration.

VP Reports Release of Iran's Blocked Money

TEHRAN (IP) - First Vice President says the Iranian-blocked money has been released in some countries.

On the sidelines of the cabinet session on Wednesday, Mohammad Mokhber told reporters that the grounds are being prepared for the release of the rest of the country's money blocked elsewhere.

Mokhber pointed to the issue of inflation in the country and said the administration has put some measures on its agenda to curb it.

He referred to issues such as the Ukrainian war, the omission of preferential currency, and the recent unrest in 2022 and said that despite these problems, the administration managed to control inflation in the country.

Unrest and brawls were instigated under the pretext of Mahsa Amini, 22, who died due to a sudden heart attack in a police center in Tehran on Tuesday, September 13, after being taken there for violation of dress codes along with some other women.



During the unrest, the foreign-baked media, U.S. politicians, and some European leaders spared no effort to exploit the pretext in support of the rioters in the name of the Iranians. At the same time, millions of people in Iran came out to condemn the rioters and support the Islamic Republic.

IRGC Busts Terror team in Sistan and Baluchestan

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Ground Force has managed to smash a team of terrorists in the country's southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan close to the border with Pakistan.

The IRGC Ground Force's Quds Base said in a statement on Wednesday that the team had been busted before carrying out its plans for terrorist operations in the southern part of the province.

The statement added that the IRGC servicemen ambushed the terrorist team and disbanded it in cooperation with the Intelligence Ministry forces.

Two terrorists were killed and a third one was arrested in the operation, which also resulted in the confiscation of ammunition, weapons and explosives, it said.

Sistan and Baluchestan province, which borders Pakistan, has witnessed several terror attacks targeting both civilians and security forces over the past years.

Terrorist groups carrying out attacks against Iranian interests in the southeastern and southwestern parts of the country have known links to a number of repressive regimes in the Persian Gulf region.

Iran's security forces have invariably protected the border areas and managed to repel almost all terrorist attacks by foreign-backed anti-revolution elements across the country.

MPs Warn of Humanitarian Disaster in East Due To Water Shortage

TEHRAN (IFP)- Over 200 Iranian lawmakers have backed the government's efforts to secure the country's share of water from the Helmand River, warning of a "humanitarian catastrophe" in Iran's eastern regions if no water reaches there in three months.

In a statement, the Iranian lawmakers said the Iranian and Afghan nations, which share one civilization and culture, have always stood by one another throughout history, ups and downs, and abundance and scarcity of water.

"Currently, the situation is so difficult for the honorable people of Sistan-and-Baluchestan that if water does not reach the region in three months, we have to wait for a humanitarian disaster in the east of the country," the statement read.

The lawmakers also voiced support for the government's firm stance against the Taliban government's refusal to allow Iran's access to its share of water from the Helmand River.

Tensions have been escalating between Iran and Afghanistan over the Taliban's violations of the 1973 treaty on shared water resources.

As per the provisions of the treaty, Afghanistan is bound to release 820 million cubic meters of water from the Helmand River annually, but Iranian authorities have repeatedly said that Kabul has been withholding its share.

Iran has warned the Taliban that it will not hesitate to use pressure to make them respect the water rights of Iran.

Political Will of Countries in Region Created Bridge of Friendship

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs has emphasized that the bridge of friendship and brotherhood that has been created through the political will of the countries in the south and north of the Persian Gulf has formed a clear vision of stability and development for the people of the region.

Ali Bagheri Kani made the remarks in a meeting with Anwar Mohammed Gargash, senior diplomatic advisor to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) President, and Khalifa Shaheen Almarar, Minister of State within the UAE Minister of State of Foreign Affairs in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday.

Stressing that Iran considers no limit to enhancing its ties with neighbors, Bagheri Kani called the continuous political consultation between the officials of the two countries' foreign ministries to be the significant factor in bolstering the relations between Tehran and Abu Dhabi.

He reiterated that regional security and stability depend on the cooperation of all countries in the region for development and progress.

Emphasizing the efficiency of the neighborhood policy adopted by President Raisi's administration, he noted that the bridge of friendship and brotherhood that has been created through the political will of the countries in the south and north of the Persian Gulf has created a clear vision of stability and development for the people of the region.

Bagheri Kani underlined that the consolidation of mutual political trust between the two countries is the key to the stability of relations between Iran and the UAE in the new era.

The senior Emirati officials, for their part, emphasized the determination of their country's government to comprehensively improve ties with Iran and considered the deepening of economic relations as a priority.

Iran, Armenia Discuss Regional Security Issues

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Armenian Minister of Defense Suren Papikyan received the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Iran to Armenia, Abbas Badakhshan Zohouri, who is completing his diplomatic mission in Armenia.

During the meeting, the parties discussed the progress and prospects of Armenian-Iranian cooperation, exchanged views on regional security issues.

At the end of the meeting, Minister Papikyan thanked Ambassador Zohouri for strengthening Armenian-Iranian relations and increasing the effectiveness of cooperation during his tenure in Armenia, wishing him success in his future work.



Iran's New Envoy to China Starts Mission

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran's new ambassador to China Mohsen Bakhtiar met with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian on the eve of leaving for Beijing to start his diplomatic mission in the East Asian country.

In the meeting with Bakhtiar late on Tuesday, Amirabdollahian said developing relations with Asian countries is a priority for Iran.

Amirabdollahian also stressed the need to make maximum use of the potentials that exist in bilateral, regional, and international cooperation with China.

Emphasizing the need for the full implementation of the 25-year comprehensive cooperation program between the



Iran and Chinas, he also called for the implementation of agreements made between the two countries during President Ebrahim Raisi's March visit to China.

Former Iranian ambassador to China Mohammad Keshavarzadeh had announced the end of his "successful" mission in the country in a Twitter post earlier this week.

The diplomat said his achievements during his time as ambassador to China included the delivery of some 120 million doses of coronavirus vaccine from China to Iran, finalizing a 25-year strategic partnership deal between the two countries, and an agreement reached between Iran and Saudi Arabia in Beijing in March to restore their diplomatic ties.

Iran Close Partner of Kazakhstan in Islamic World

TEHRAN (MNA)- Iran is a close partner of Kazakhstan in the Islamic world and the two countries enjoy all-embracing cooperation, Kazakh Senate Speaker Maulen Ashimbayev said.

Maulen Ashimbayev made the remarks in the meeting with Iran's ambassador to Kazakhstan Ali Akbar Jokar to discuss further deepening of cooperation and partnership between the two nations, according to Kaz Inform.

Ashimbayev noted that bilateral relations have been gaining momentum between Astana and Tehran ever since President Tokayev's visit to Iran in 2022.

The Kazakh official went on to express keen interest of the Kazakh side to further develop relations between Kazakh and Iranian parliaments.

He also filled in the Iranian ambassador on the progress in ambitious reforms in Kazakhstan spearheaded by the Head of State.

The Senate Speaker paid utmost attention to the activity of the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions and invited the Iranian religious leaders to take part in the jubilee session of the Secretariat of the Congress this fall.

Sweden-Held Iranian Prisoner Allowed to Call Family After a Year

TEHRAN (PressTV) - A former Iranian judiciary official, who has been illegally imprisoned in Sweden since late 2019, has been allowed to call his family after an entire year, his son has revealed.

"By God's grace and [thanks to] our friends' prayers as well as political and media pressures, Sweden finally stopped one instance of its inhumane behaviors, and my father [was allowed to] call after a year," his son, Majid, tweeted on Tuesday.

"I am glad that we [got to] talk to my father," he added. "I was arrested immediately upon arrival at the Arlanda Airport in Stockholm more than three years ago."

Swedish authorities alleged that he had been involved in the execution and torture of members of the anti-Iran terrorist Mujahedin-e-Khalq Organization (MKO) cult back in 1988.

On July 14, 2022, a Swedish court sentenced Nouri to

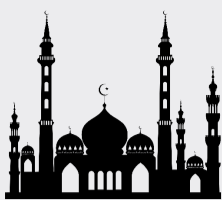
life imprisonment.

The court, which has been described by Iranian officials as illegal, convicted Nouri of so-called war crimes and crimes against humanity, based on allegations leveled against him by the MKO.

Nouri has been put in solitary confinement since his illegal arrest.

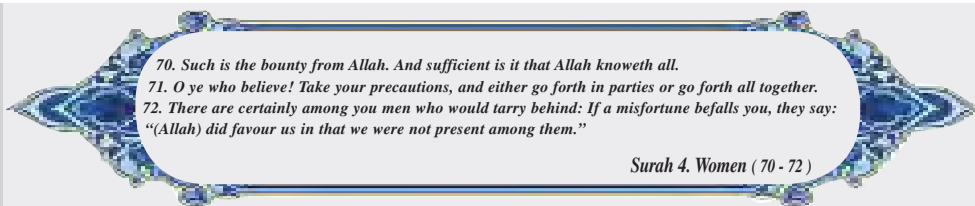
Speaking to his family, he partially recounted his ordeal. "[Being in] prison already has its own concomitant adversities. If you are held in solitary confinement, it is like you are being held in a prison, [which is located] inside another prison," he said, adding, "I have been truly subjected to too much oppression... I am innocent."

"We are still pursuing cessation of his unjust trial so he is freed from the thralldom of incarceration," added the tweet by his son.



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	12:04
■ Evening (Maghreb)	19:42
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	03:01
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	04:48



Rise in Transit, Direct Flights and Trade Between Tehran and Moscow

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN – Minister of Roads and Urban Development says the relation between Iran and Russia in trade is positive and expressing hope the volume of transit, number of flights and surge in trade would continue through sharing experiences and economic capacities.

Speaking in a ceremony marking Russia's National Day which was held in Tehran, Mehrdad Bazrpash felicitated the day to Russian government and nation and said that relation of Tehran-Moscow is very old with many ups and downs, adding that today relation of the two countries in the political, economic, cultural and scientific fields are upward trend.

He then pointed to the exchange of high-ranking government and private sector officials, rise in the volume of trade exchanges, rise in the reciprocal investment, diversity in the exporting and importing goods baskets, rise in the volume of transit and joint economic projects and rise in the number of direct flights between different cities of the two countries are considerable issues.

He added that they prospect a growing future for reinforcing transport infrastructures, road, rail, sea and air transit as well as creating a financial and banking connection.

Bazrpash further said that some major and effective actions are underway for harmonizing standards, easing and increasing trade of goods and services, using experiences and economic capacities of both countries for meeting the demands of their markets and presence in the third party markets as well as new businesses based on the modern technology and these relations have a bright future ahead.



He reiterated that Iran and Russia beside their close relation have close views on the regional and international issues. He added that two countries have close cooperation for restoring peace and broadening economic cooperation in SCO, EAEU as well as in the Caspian Sea.

He went on to say that free trade agreement between Iran and the EAEU is of the main factors for easing economic relation between Iran and Russia and expressed hope by using those capacities, the grounds for broadening trade exchanges as well as investment for joint production would be paved.

Bazrpash then pointed to the determination of Tehran for broadening friendly relation with friendly and neighboring countries and wished Russia peace, welfare, tranquility and development.

Then Ambassador of Russia to Tehran Alexey Dedov, for his part, welcome Bazrpash to the event and said that his country has set its relation with all countries based on mutual respect and the best example for his claim is friendly relation with Iran that despite sanctions against both countries, Russia's exchanges with Iran are broadening in all fields.

He said this year so far presidents of both countries four times have talked on phone and they have met each other in international events and supported each other.

He then pointed to the importance of the North-South Corridor and said that Russia welcomes cooperation with Iran in this project.

PGSOC's Laboratory Gets Certificate of Accreditation

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK



TEHRAN – The ceremony for granting the certificate competency to the laboratory of Persian Gulf Star Oil Company (PGSOC) was held and the refinery could get the highest international standard certificate ISO17025.

According to the public relations of Persian Gulf Star Oil Company, the CEO of the company addressing the ceremony said that the laboratory of the company was endorsed by the National Accreditation Center of Iran (NACI), adding that it could get international standard ISO17025 certificate.

Alireza Jafarpour said that ISO17025 is the latest version of international standards which eases exports and can secure the validity of results of standard. He added that this refinery is the biggest exporter of the oil products and getting this certificate will definitely help internationalization of productions of the company.

He noted that this certificate considering high risk-taking which exists in the lab management eases the presence in the international markets. He also pointed to improving the production capacity of refinery to 480,000 barrels per day while currently the refinery is working with production capacity of 455,000 barrels per day.

Jafarpour noted that the refinery produces 40% of total gasoline consumption of the company and this share has been decreased in the country due to the rise in consumption.

He added that when the gasoline consumption in the country is 100m liters per day, Persian Gulf Star Refinery produces 40m liters of 100m liters of gasoline consumption of the country per day but last spring the gasoline consumption surpassed 130m liters and for this reason the share of the refinery declined to 38%.

Jafarpour reiterated that 15% of gas oil, 15% of liquefied gas and 20% of kerosene of the country are produced in Persian Gulf Star Oil Refinery, adding that gasoline is the most strategic production of this refinery which has its own effect in the country and if some disrupt happens in gasoline production, the whole country will be affected.

He said that the Supreme Leader has termed the refinery as the pride and reputation of the Islamic establishment and if this refinery were not, the country would have problems for gasoline supply as well as gas condensates problem.

National Phoenix Award of Top Construction Brand for Thetran

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK



TEHRAN - Maskan Tehran Investment Company (Thetran) won the National Simorgh (Phoenix) Award of the top construction brand during the conference on Strategies of developing services, productions and exports of top Iranian companies.

According to the reports, Thetran as one of the affiliate firms of Maskan Tehran Investment Group which has been active in Tehran, Karaj and Qazvin since 2001 and in the field of mass construction it is trying to create competitive market for good and high quality house construction in the domestic market with innovation in construction and properly using of the expert and experienced human capital.

The event was held in collaboration of several organizations and companies and Thetran was one of them and choosing Thetran as the top construction brand bespeaks of proper understanding from the talents of the organization in the field of urban and mass construction fields and it will help customers to have safer investment with full and correct awareness.

The CEO of Maskan Tehran Investment Company had earlier said in the media that the company was trying to remove hurdles for making profits for shareholders and it has been materialized to some extent till now.

Thetran after the evaluation conducted by the organizers of the event won the national phoenix award as the top construction brand and for quality of implementation and unique building in the industry and mass construction field.

Maskan Tehran Investment Company as one of the biggest subsidiary companies of Maskan Investment Group has started its activities since 1990 in Tehran, Karaj and Qazvin and it is trying to use innovation in construction and using skillful and expert human capital in the field of mass construction to create a competitive market for building good and high quality houses in the domestic market.

The achievement of Thetran shows that the group is on right track in the industry and organizations have realized the good performance and quality of the group.

ICCIMA to Hold Forum On Trade Opportunities In Bangladesh



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mine and Agriculture (ICCIMA) on June 20 will hold a forum on introducing trade opportunities in Bangladesh with the presence of Bangladesh Ambassador and commercial attache.

According to the ICCIMA news portal, the forum will be held on June 20 at the ICCIMA and during the forum Iranian businessmen will be acquainted with Bangladesh market, needs and capacities of Bangladesh market and trade and investment advantages of this country and regulations off trade and investment in this country will be the top issues of the forum.

Bangladesh in recent years has boosted its economic cooperation with Iran and it is determined to deepen this relation.

Iran Exports Over 2.8m Refinery Installation Parts to Venezuela

TEHRAN (IRNA)- Iran has exported more than 2.8 million refinery installation parts to Venezuela to revitalize the refineries in the Latin American country, according to Iran's Oil Minister Javad Owji.

Owji made the comments few hours after the two countries signed several oil contracts in Venezuela on Tuesday which happened simultaneous with a visit to Caracas by Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and his accompanying delegation.

With 17.5% of the total world oil reserves, Venezuela sits on the largest oil reserves of the world, the minister said.

He added that Venezuela has four refineries with a capacity of 1.4 million barrels per day which have been lying idle due to the sanctions and withdrawal of specialized workforce.

The minister also said that Venezuela has a 12 million mt of installed capacity of ammonia, urea, and poly ethylene which paves the ground for cooperation in the area of petrochemical industry between the two nations.

Iran, Qatar Chief Bankers Discuss Expansion of Monetary Ties

TEHRAN (MNA) - The governors of the central banks of Iran and Qatar have emphasized the necessity of increasing monetary, banking, and financial cooperation between the two countries, the portal of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) reported.

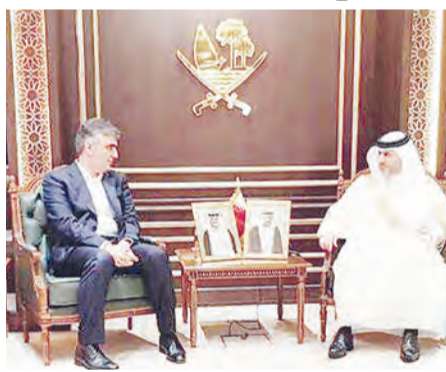
CBI Governor Mohammadreza Farzin, who has traveled to Doha, in a meeting with his Qatari counterpart Sheikh Bandar bin Mohammed bin Saoud Al-Thani stressed that the increase in monetary, banking, and financial cooperation would be the basis for the development of trade exchanges between Iran and Qatar.

"Considering the existing economic capacities of the two countries, strengthening bilateral and multilateral banking relations is on our agenda," Farzin said.

He further noted that with the development of monetary and banking relations between Tehran and Doha, the volume of trade between the two countries will also grow significantly.

Accordingly, relevant cooperation should be increased more rapidly to realize this goal, he added.

The Qatari central bank governor, for his part,



referred to Tehran-Doha joint cooperation in various economic and commercial fields, saying: "There are many opportunities to increase trade exchanges between Iran and Qatar, which should be benefited from by using the monetary and banking relations of the two countries to realize the mutual economic capacities."

In this meeting, the governors of the central banks also emphasized the facilitation of the activity of financial platforms and the use of private sector companies in the monetary and banking spheres in order to achieve the economic and commercial goals of both sides.

As announced by an official with Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), the value of trade between Iran and Qatar is estimated to reach \$3 billion by the Iranian calendar year 1404 (begins on March 2025).

Farzad Piltan, the director-general of TPO's Office of West Asian Countries, said such amount of trade will include export, import, joint investment, transit, re-export, and joint production.

Iran Export to Venezuela Exceeds \$3.5b

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iranian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Economic Diplomacy says that Iran's exports to Venezuela have increased to more than \$3.5 billion.

Referring to the recent visit of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi to Caracas, Mehdi Safari said that the \$3.6 billion contract between Iran and Venezuela which was signed during Raisi's visit to Latin America is considered as the starting point for the transformation of Iran's political and economic relations with Latin America.

He pointed to Iran's serious will to re-establish commercial and economic relations with Latin America, saying that 27 agreements were reached in different fields including energy, telecommunication, nanotechnology, and automobile and tractor manufacturing.

Stone, gold, and iron mines in this region will be exploited with the participation of Iran, and the drug production line and nanotechnology are also among Iran's other programs in Latin America, especially in Venezuela, he added.

During President Raisi's visit to Caracas, Iran and Venezuela announced their decision to increase the volume of bilateral trade to 20 billion dollars, as the two countries signed a total of 19 cooperation agreements and memorandums of understanding. Tehran and Caracas also signed several contracts to cooperate in the oil sector.

Head of DoE Says Iranian Cheetah Cubs Observed

TEHRAN (IP) - The Head of Iran's Department of Environment said that a cheetah with four cubs was seen in the Turan region last week.

Earlier in May, the Head of Iran's Department of Environment Ali Salajegheh announced the observation of a male cheetah in Isfahan, central Iran, and said that enjoys a number of cheetahs.

On the sidelines of the cabinet session on Wednesday, June 14, Salajegheh told reporters about environmental diplomacy, saying that the issue in line with the political

and economic goals of the government has been successful.

He also told IranPress about Shadegan Ponds in Khuzestan Province, Southwestern Iran, to boost tourism: "Good things have been done on the order of President, and we will use the capacities of this region."

The Shadegan International Wetland is among of Ramsar Convention wetlands. It covers about 400,000 hectares in Khuzestan Province. The ponds and surrounding marshes are fed by the Karun River and are connected to the Persian Gulf.

Investors in Biggest Climate Pressure Group Don't Like to Pressure

LONDON (Dispatches) - Members of the largest investor coalition focused on convincing the corporate world to act on climate change rarely flex their muscles to pressure the worst polluters, an analysis of shareholder voting records and interviews with members show.

Climate Action 100+ (CA100+), set up in 2017, comprises more than 700 investment firms representing \$68 trillion in assets.

It set goals in its first phase to get the world's 166 largest corporate emitters of greenhouse gases to commit to net-zero targets, introduce governance and oversight of climate risks and disclose progress. In phase two, launched last week, it wants to get the biggest polluters to implement cuts to their emissions by 2030, so they can show they are on track to meet pledges to bring emissions down to zero on a net basis by 2050.

Shareholder voting data reviewed by Reuters, however, shows that investors in the group refrain from using the biggest weapon in their arsenal - the ability to vote against board directors - even when the polluting companies refuse to act.

Shareholder votes in favor of re-electing directors at 15 companies out of about 40 that CA100+ deems climate laggards, because they have not set 2050 net-zero targets, comprised on average more than 95% of the shareholder votes cast this year, in line with 2022 and 2021 levels, the data shows.

"There are lots of asset managers not even aligned with CA100+ objectives," said Xander Urbach, responsible investment advisor at Dutch fund manager MN, which leads CA100+'s engagement with oil and gas giant Shell. He declined to identify the managers.

CA100+ said in a statement it was a voluntary initiative and cannot tell signatories what to do.

At stake is whether CA100+ members use all the tools at their disposal to pressure climate laggards. Critics argue that the reluctance to challenge companies' boards is responsible for just 10% of companies having committed to align their spending plans with either their own emissions targets or the Paris climate agreement.

Most CA100+ members seek to persuade companies to do more on climate through "engagement", which involves lobbying corporate executives and directors, rather than voting to oust them, several members told Reuters.

Advocates of this approach say it has yielded results, with 75% of the 166 companies engaged having set a 2050 net-zero emissions target, up from less than 5% when the group launched in late 2017. Its non-prescriptive approach has also allowed CA100+ to recruit members who would not have joined a club with strict rules, supporters say.

"In phase two the overarching goal is to go from words to action," Francois Humbert, chair of CA100+'s Steering Committee and engagement manager at Generali Investments, told Reuters.

Phase two will require "10 times more effort" and need people with "lots of engagement experience and a bit more grey hair", he added.

Critics of CA100+'s approach say board challenges are needed. They point to examples such as activist investor Engine No. 1's success in winning board seats at Exxon Mobil Corp (XOM.N) in 2021 after it criticized the oil major for not doing enough to address climate risk.

The critics also say the absence of board challenges bodes poorly for CA100+'s goal to get polluters to cut emissions by 2030.

Eli Kasargod-Staub, co-founder of shareholder advocacy group MajorityAction, said CA100+ investors were abdicating their responsibility to hold directors accountable, given they have now been engaging with companies for five years.



Heatwave Lays Bare Vietnam's Structural Electricity Woes

HANOI (Dispatches) - Vietnam is battling electricity cuts caused by a heatwave that has exposed structural and bureaucratic problems limiting available power to half of installed capacity and crimping efforts to unlock \$15.5 billion in global climate funding.

The manufacturing hub hosts large factories run by tech firms Samsung and Foxconn, among others, but has struggled to upgrade its grid, a key step to satisfy demand and lure companies diversifying from China and elsewhere.

"Many factories have had to suspend production due to severe power cuts, and the cuts are regular," said Hong Sun, chairman of the Korean Chamber of Commerce in Vietnam.

"This is a very serious problem for South Korean companies operating in Vietnam."

And European businesses urged the government this month to move quickly to tackle the power crisis. "Addressing power shortages requires more concerted efforts to ensure efficient decision-making process for electricity market reforms," said Trang Nguyen, head of the Southeast Asia team at Australia's non-profit Climateworks Centre.

But against that backdrop it is unlikely renewable energy will come to the rescue any time soon, however. Despite a recent solar development binge, the Southeast Asian nation home to 100 million people is reliant on coal and hydropower.

It has nearly 80 gigawatts (GW) of maximum installed power capacity, but the heatwave has cut output to less than half that at peak times, data for two-week averages to June 11 from state network operator EVN shows, or not even enough for normal days.

Average peak demand has grown roughly fourfold since 2006 to 42.5 GW in 2021, an EVN presentation showed in February. That left the highly populated and industrialized north short of 4.35 GW during the heatwave, the government has said.

Coal-fired plants accounted for about 60% of electricity output last week, EVN data showed, and May imports of coal, at 4.5 million tons, were the highest since June 2020, according to Refinitiv data. But even coal is falling short, as roughly 25% of capacity at such plants has been idled for repairs, the industry ministry said.

A lack of rain has hit output of hydropower, the No.2 source of electricity, with some northern provinces receiving just about a fifth of last year's figure, weather data show.

Water levels at almost all northern hydropower plants are too low for them to run at more than a quarter of designed capacity, the industry ministry has said.

While solar forms a quarter of Vietnam's installed capacity after a surge in investment in renewable power in the previous decade, little of that has been tapped, due to delays in project approvals, lengthy tariff talks and regulatory uncertainty.

Installed capacity from solar farms and rooftop panels stood at 19.4 GW by the end of 2020, but just 10.5 GW was in use on average at peak time in the heatwave, EVN says.

And few solar energy producers are hooked up to the grid, with many having waited years for tariff agreements.

Partly as a result, solar's contribution to Vietnam's power mix is set to drop to 8.5% of installed capacity by 2030, excluding rooftop panels, as other energy sources gain share under a power plan for this decade approved in June.

Wind power projects, slowed by administrative hurdles and the COVID-19 pandemic, saw about 12.5 GW go unused by February, after missing a 2021 deadline for government authorisation to sell electricity at more favourable prices, according to an internal document from a member of the Group of Seven (G7) nations seen by Reuters.



Alarming Impact of Ultra-Processed Foods On Cardiometabolic Health

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - In the last three decades, there has been a significant increase in the prevalence of cardiovascular diseases, which remains a major cause of mortality and morbidity. Simultaneously, an increase in the number of people with cardiometabolic risk (CMR) factors, such as high fasting plasma glucose, hypertension, obesity, and high low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol, has been recorded.

Although several studies have established the link between higher ultra-processed food (UPF) consumption and increased incidence of cardiovascular diseases, not many studies have documented how modifying UPF consumption affects CMR factors. Addressing this gap in research, a recent *Atherosclerosis* journal study investigates how changes in UPF consumption influence CMR factors.

Study: Increased ultra-processed food consumption is associated with worsening in cardiometabolic risk factors in adults with metabolic syndrome: Longitudinal analysis from a randomized trial. Image Credit: aquariagirl1970 / Shutterstock.com Study: Increased ultra-processed food consumption is associated with worsening in cardiometabolic risk factors in adults with metabolic syndrome: Longitudinal analysis from a randomized trial. Image Credit: aquariagirl1970 / Shutterstock.com

Diet plays an important role in preventing the risk of developing cardiovascular disease. Typically, foods with high-density energy but low nutritional content increase CMR factors. Based on the NOVA classification, food, and beverages that are categorized as ultra-processed food (UPF) undergo a high level of industrial processing to make them more palatable, ready-to-eat, and accessible.

In the last decade, the rate of UPF consumption has increased significantly. UPF intake has been associated with lower diet quality due to high levels of total and saturated fats, free sugar, and low concentration of fibers, proteins, vitamins, and minerals in these products.

Several longitudinal, cross-sectional studies have established the link between UPF consumption and several CMR factors. A French study

revealed that higher consumption of UPF increases the risk of diabetes and cardiovascular diseases. Another prospective study conducted by Navarra University (SUN) indicated that higher UPF consumption increases the risk of hypertension by 21%. The prospective study analyzed how modifications in UPF consumption influence CMR factors, such as body mass index (BMI), weight, blood pressure, waist circumference, glycated hemoglobin (HbA1c), triglycerides, blood glucose, cholesterol (total, HDL, and LDL), and triglycerides and glucose index (TyG index).



Relevant data were collected during the first 12 months of follow-up of the PREDIMED-Plus study. The PREDIMED-Plus is an ongoing multi-center, randomized clinical trial that was designed to investigate how intensive weight loss intervention related to adherence to the Mediterranean diet, physical activity, and behavior prevents the incidence of cardiovascular diseases.

All participants were recruited between September 2013 and December 2016 from 23 centers across the Spanish territory and randomly assigned to two groups. Both male and female obese participants were employed.

All participants had three of the five risk factors of metabolic syndrome, including hypertension, plasma HDL cholesterol, fasting blood glucose, plasma triglycerides, and obesity. Data on participants' dietary intake was obtained through interviews, and

answers were validated through a semi-quantitative food frequency questionnaire (FFQ) at baseline, six, and 12 months follow-up.

A total of 5,373 participants, 52% of whom were male and 48% female, met all eligibility criteria and were included in the present study. All participants were around 65 years of age. The participants with higher UPF consumption were significantly younger, less physically active, and least adept to adhere to an energy-restricted Mediterranean diet.

Higher intake of UPF was positively associated with waist circumference, weight, diastolic blood pressure, TyG index, HbA1c, triglycerides, and fasting blood glucose. In this context, several sociodemographic and lifestyle characteristics were adjusted.

UPF consumption rate was reduced during the 12 months of follow-up, which could be because participants were instructed on how to adhere to the Mediterranean diet. In this study, UPF presented 7.7% of the total amount of food consumed by weight.

The reduction in UPF consumption could be because all participants were obese and had metabolic syndrome at baseline. Thus, changes in their dietary intake could be a part of the healthcare regime.

Based on multivariable-adjusted analyses, higher UPF consumption was associated with obesity and greater waist circumference. However, such an association was not found in the lower UPF consumption group, as these associations exhibited a significant dose-response relationship. After 9.1 years of follow-up, individuals with the highest UPF consumption exhibited an elevated risk of developing hypertension as compared to those with a lower intake of UPF.

Higher UPF consumption has been strongly linked with an increase in diastolic blood pressure. However, when this effect was studied, no statistically significant association with systolic blood pressure was found when UPF consumption increased by 100 gm/day.

UPF consumption was also associated with unfavorable levels of plasma triglycerides and TyG index but not with total HDL, and LDL cholesterol. A positive association between total cholesterol and a 5% increment in UPF consumption was estimated.

The current study has several limitations, including the lack of generalizability in the cohort, as it comprised participants whose ages were between 55 and 75 years. In addition, all participants were overweight and had metabolic syndrome at baseline. Additionally, this study followed NOVA classification, which is not a perfect system to classify UPF.

People in Ireland Are the Most Lonely

DUBLIN (Dispatches) - One in five people in Ireland experience loneliness, according to a new survey.

The survey was conducted in November and December 2022 and included more than 25,000 respondents aged 16 and older from all 27 European Union (EU) countries. Overall, 13% of respondents said they felt lonely most or all of the time over the past four weeks, whereas 35% reported experiencing loneliness at least some of the time.

Loneliness was found to be most prevalent in Ireland, where more than 20% of respondents reported feeling lonely, followed by Luxemburg, Bulgaria, and Greece. The lowest levels of loneliness were observed in the Netherlands, Czech Republic, Croatia, and Austria, with less than 10% of respondents reporting feeling lonely.

The prevalence of loneliness decreases with older age, as well as increased income and education. People going through major life events, such as separation, job loss, or finishing studies, experience loneliness more often.

The survey defines emotional loneliness as the feeling of a lack of a meaningful relationship with a significant other or a close friend. Social loneliness refers to the experience of an insufficient broader social network, including friends, neighbors, or colleagues.

The problem of loneliness is not limited to the EU. According to a recent survey, 17% of American adults reported feeling loneliness "a lot of the day yesterday." The levels of loneliness are the highest among young adults under the age of 30 (24%) and those in lower-income households earning less than \$24,000 per year (27%).

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Former World 100m Champion Died From Childbirth Complications

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Former 100 meters world champion Tori Bowie died from complications during childbirth, U.S. media reported.
The American, who won gold, silver and bronze medals at the Rio Games in 2016 and was crowned world champion a year later, died on May 3 at the age of 32. An autopsy report from the Orange County (Florida) Medical Examiner's Office obtained by USA TODAY Sports said Bowie was approximately eight months pregnant and experiencing labour when she died.

French Amateur Club Land 160,000 Euro Windfall

PARIS (Dispatches) - French club SC Malesherbois have received a payment from the FIFA Clearing House worth more than their annual budget for their role in developing a player sold to a top European club, world soccer's governing body said on Tuesday.
FIFA's centralized clearing house was launched in November last year with the aim of bringing "transparency and accountability" amid efforts to crack down on the multi-billion dollar global transfer market.

Nuggets Beat Heat To Win First NBA Title

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - The Denver Nuggets beat the Miami Heat 94-89 today to bring a first NBA title to Mile High City, with Serbian big man Nikola Jokic scoring 28 points and being named the Most Valuable Player of the Finals.
With a raucous capacity crowd packed into Ball Arena ready to celebrate, the Nuggets ended a 47-year championship wait by taking the best-of-seven series 4-1.
Once again the Nuggets were led by Jokic, who hit for a double-double of 28 points and 16 rebounds to cap a dominating postseason performance.
"The job is done, we can go home now," said Jokic, whose trophy case also includes two NBA MVP Awards. "It was an amazing effort by the team."
"That is why basketball is a fun sport, it is a live thing, you cannot say this going to happen, there are so many factors."
"I'm just happy we won the game."
Michael Porter Jr. contributed 16 points and 13 rebounds to the Denver cause while Canadian Jamal Murray chipped in with 14 points.
Jimmy Butler led Miami with 21 points.
The eighth-seeded Heat had defied the odds throughout the postseason, taking out the Milwaukee Bucks, New York Knicks and Boston Celtics, but the challenge facing them today was a near impossible one.
Of the 36 teams that have fallen behind 3-1 in an NBA Finals only one, the 2016 Cleveland Cavaliers, came back to claim the Larry O'Brien Championship Trophy.
Making the task even more daunting, Ball Arena has been a virtual fortress for the Nuggets, who were 9-1 at home during the postseason coming into Game Five.



That one loss, however, coming to Miami in Game Two.
It was all hands on deck for the Heat with guard Tyler Herro, who had been out of action for nearly two months with a broken right hand, made available for the game but never got on the floor.
Miami started smartly, jumping ahead 5-0 before the Nuggets shifted into gear and went on a 12-0 run, whipping the crowd into frenzy.
But after a timeout the refocused Heat went on a 11-2 run of their own to retake lead as a wild opening quarter ended with Miami up 24-22.
In the second quarter turnovers and poor shooting continued to plague the Nuggets as they went a woeful 1-15 from beyond the arc while the resilient Heat held steady in the Ball Arena pressure cooker, taking a 51-44 advantage into the break.
The Nuggets came out with urgency in a bruising third quarter that finished with the Heat clinging to a 71-70 lead.
Hoping to send the series back to Miami for Game Six, Butler tried to come to the rescue late in the fourth scoring eight consecutive points, two free throws putting the Heat ahead 89-88 with just under two minutes remaining.
But the Nuggets would not be denied, a Bruce Brown lay-up giving Denver a 90-89 lead they would never let go.
Standing on the podium celebrating a first championship, Nuggets coach Michael Malone took the opportunity to fire up supporters even more, telling them more titles were on the way.
"I've got news for everyone out there," Malone said. "We are not satisfied with one."

Messi Confirms Triumphant 2022 World Cup Was Probably His Last

BEIJING (Dispatches) - Lionel Messi confirmed he "doesn't think" he will play at another World Cup in an interview with Chinese media, after the 35-year-old led Argentina to victory at last year's tournament in Qatar.
"I have said several times before that I don't think so, that that (2022) was my last World Cup," he said when asked by China's Titan Sports in a video interview if he might feature at the 2026 tournament in North America.
"I will see how things go but in theory I don't think I will be around for the next World Cup," he added in Spanish in the video published on the app Kuaishou.
The seven-time Ballon d'Or winner is currently in Beijing where Argentina will play a friendly against Australia on Thursday.
His comments come after he said earlier this year to Argentinian newspaper Ole that it would be "very difficult" to play at another World Cup.
He will turn 39 during the next tournament.
Messi last week announced he would join MLS side Inter Miami after his two-year deal with Paris Saint-Germain came to an end.
Argentina will play Thursday's friendly against Australia at the 68,000-capacity Workers' Stadium in Beijing.

Euros Expansion Leaves Drama-Lite Qualifying For Big Nations

LONDON (Dispatches) - As qualifying for Euro 2024 resumes on Friday, an unintended consequence of the expansion to 24 teams is quickly becoming apparent, with six teams already given at least a 95 per cent chance of making it to Germany with only two rounds of matches played.
With 20 teams qualifying automatically as the top two in each group and another three via playoffs, along with hosts Germany, a huge swathe of the event's jeopardy has been removed at the top end.
Research simulation by data company Nielsen Gracenote predicts that Switzerland (98 per cent chance of reaching Euro 2024 without playoffs), Portugal (98 per cent), France (98 per cent), England (97 per cent), Belgium (97 per cent) and Serbia (96 per cent) already have one foot in the finals despite still having the vast majority of their qualifiers to play.
Croatia, Poland, Czech Republic, Spain, and the Netherlands are also expected to progress, all having over an 80 per cent chance of direct qualification despite losing or drawing one of their opening games, as are Hungary, who have played one game.
Another five teams have at least an 80 per cent chance of finishing in the top two of their groups. Gracenote predicts the 20 most likely automatic qualifiers to be Switzerland, Portugal, France, England, Belgium, Serbia, Croatia, Poland, Czech Republic, Spain, Hungary, the Netherlands, Denmark, Scotland, Romania, Italy, Wales, Slovenia, Austria and Bosnia and Herzegovina.
It is a very different story to the tense campaigns that preceded the tournament when it comprised four teams up to 1980, when it expanded to eight, and 16 from 1996 until the 2021 edition when it first moved to 24. Qualifying matches were huge occasions, where one slip could and did cause a pedigree team to miss out. Despite being the reigning champions, Italy failed to qualify in 1972 and also missed 76, 84, when they were world champions, and 92. It was the same situation for France who missed out in 88 following their 1984 triumph, which itself was a rare highlight coming after five successive failures to qualify from 64-80.

Happy Return for Raonic After Two-Year Heartbreak



AMSTERDAM (Dispatches) - On the face of it there was nothing extraordinary about Canadian Milos Raonic's 50th tour level win on grass in the opening round of this week's 's-Hertogenbosch tournament — a 6-3 6-4 defeat of Miomir Kecmanovic.
But for the former world number three it marked the end of an injury nightmare that sidelined him for two years and made him doubt whether he would ever play again.
The big-serving 32-year-old was once a regular in the second week of Grand Slam tournaments and he reached the Wimbledon final in 2016 when he was beaten by Andy Murray.
But the injuries that had nagged him throughout his career returned with a vengeance in 2021 and after three months out with leg injuries another comeback stalled and he took a hiatus from the game that looked like becoming permanent.
So Monday's win over Kecmanovic was an emotional one for the Montenegro-born

right-hander whose breakthrough inspired a new generation of Canucks such as Felix Auger-Aliassime and Denis Shapovalov and 2021 US Open runner-up Leylah Fernandez.
"It's nice to be here after almost two years now and stepping away for a long time," Raonic told ATPTour.com.
"It's nice to be giving it one more try and hopefully going as far as I can. I've put in the best effort I could, and I want to see how far it takes me."
Raonic looked composed throughout the contest in which he offered plenty of glimpses of the serving power and thunderous forehand, but conceded he had been nervous.
"I didn't get to hit a single tennis ball for a full year, now I get to play in front of a bunch of people," Raonic said. "It was pretty nerve-racking, I forgot that feeling."
Raonic, who is playing with a protected ranking, said he is taking things 'day by day' and just enjoying the ride, after his long time away.
"It's been a little heartbreaking a lot of the time when I couldn't do anything and it's nice for me to be here one more time," he said.
"I get the chance to be on court, the chance to play, I get the chance to compete, to put in the work, and I get a chance to see how far it takes me, so I'm thankful."

Brazil to Play Spain at Santiago Bernabeu in Anti-Racism Campaign
MADRID (Dispatches) - Brazil will play a friendly match against Spain at the Bernabeu in March next year as part of an anti-racism campaign in support of Real Madrid forward Vinicius Jr, the Spanish FA (RFEF) president Luis Rubiales said.
Rubiales and his Brazilian FA (CBF) counterpart, Ednaldo Rodrigues, met in Madrid to launch their joint movement to combat racism under the slogan "One skin".
The agreement follows the racist insults 22-year-old Vinicius suffered in a LaLiga match at Valencia in May, the 10th such incident against the player that LaLiga has reported to prosecutors this season.
"It is important to understand that harder punishment needs to be applied in cases of racism by the football authorities," Rodrigues told a news conference.
"Fines are not enough. The clubs need to be held accountable too. CBF was the first football federation to adopt harder sanctions for cases of racism, such as the deduction of points in league standings, closure of stands or the lifetime expulsion of club members."
"We need to lead a campaign worldwide to fight against this virus that ashamed everyone in football."
Last month, the CBF also launched a national campaign against racism in Brazilian league matches with the slogan "There is no game with racism".
Brazil, five-time world champions, are in the region for matches against Guinea in Barcelona on Saturday and Senegal in Lisbon three days later.

Djokovic Returns to World Number One

LONDON (Dispatches) - Novak Djokovic reclaimed the world number one ranking from Carlos Alcaraz after winning his men's record 23rd Grand Slam title at the French Open, while Rafa Nadal dropped out of the top 100 for the first time in 20 years.
Djokovic, 36, began his record-extending 388th week at the summit on Monday, jumping two places in the standings after his victory in Paris at the weekend. He beat Spaniard Alcaraz in the semi-finals of the tournament.
Alcaraz dropped to second place while Daniil Medvedev, who crashed out in the first round, also slid one place down to third. Roland Garros runner-up Casper Ruud remained in fourth place.
Nadal, a 14-times French Open champion, has endured an injury-plagued season and not played since January because of a hip injury sustained during the Australian Open.
The 37-year-old has dropped from 15th to 136th in the rankings due to his continued absence from the tour. He underwent surgery earlier this month and is expected to be out for five months.
In the women's rankings, Iga Swiatek retained top spot after defending her French Open title. She has held the ranking since April 2022, moving to the summit following Ash Barty's retirement.
Aryna Sabalenka, who won the Australian Open in January, had the chance to overtake Swiatek but lost to Karolina Muchova in the semi-finals and remained in second place. French Open finalist Muchova climbed from 43rd to a career-high 16th.

