

**Government Spokesman Ali Bahadori Jahromi Said That the Response to Assassination of Martyr Qasem Soleimani Will Not Be Only Legal, and the Support of State Organizations Is Also on the Agenda**

# IRAN NEWS

**President Ebrahim Raisi on Sunday by Attending Majlis Presented the Bill on the Seventh Development Plan of the Country, Explaining the Important Features Of the Plan Bill to Lawmakers**

VOL. XXIX, No. 7793 TEHRAN Price 50,000 Rials

www.irannewsdaily.com

MONDAY JUNE 19, 2023 - KHORDAD 29, 1402

**2 DOMESTIC**


**Iran Faces No Limits In Developing Ties With Pakistan**



> SEE PAGE 2

**3 DOMESTIC**

**Iran Constructing 120-Megawatt Power Plant in Sri Lanka**



> SEE PAGE 3

**4 INTERNATIONAL**

**Putin Lectures African Leaders Seeking to Mediate in Ukraine**



> SEE PAGE 4

**8 SPORTS**

**Portugal Win in Euro 2024 Qualifying as Scotland Stun Norway**



> SEE PAGE 8

## Enemies Irked by Iran-Saudi Rapprochement

TEHRAN (PressTV) - President Ebrahim Raisi says enemies, particularly Israel, are the only ones furious at the improvement of relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

In a meeting with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan in Tehran on Saturday, Raisi said many Muslim nations have welcomed the rapprochement between Iran and Saudi Arabia as two influential countries in the Muslim world.

He said Iran sets no limitation to the expansion of ties with Muslim countries.

"Only the adversaries of Muslims, not least the Zionist regime, are upset with the enhancement of cooperation between Iran and Saudi Arabia."

"The Zionist regime is not only an enemy of the Palestinians, but a threat to all Muslims," Raesi said.

The Iranian president warned that normalization by certain countries with Israel would in no way enhance security as it goes against the will of Muslim nations.

Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Sudan and Morocco have so far signed US-brokered normalization agreements with Israel.

[See Page 7](#)

## Seas Comprise Iran Frontline Defense Against Enemies

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The defense minister says Iran considers the seas the frontline of its battle against the enemies, stressing the need for the advanced marine industry to maintain a strong presence in international waterways.

Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani made the remarks during a ceremony at the Marine Industries Organization (MIO), a subordinate to the Iranian Defense Ministry.

"The seas are the frontline of our confrontation and encounter with the enemies. Some of the threats posed to the Islamic Republic of Iran are rooted in the seas," he said.

"Therefore, we need an advanced, powerful and multi-purpose marine industry with international capabilities in order to have a strong presence in waterways and water lands."

Ashtiani also described maritime science and technology in the defense field as "the driving force" for the country's naval industry.

The scientific chain of the marine industry will be completed through the support of various Defense Ministry departments such as missile, radar, air defense and electronics, he added.

[See Page 7](#)

## Uzbek President in Tehran to Bolster Ties With Signing Co-Op Documents



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN – President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev on Sunday leading a high-ranking delegation arrived in Tehran to pave the ground for boosting all-out cooperation with Iran and visiting Iranian officials.

During his visit, ten cooperation documents were signed between Iran and Uzbekistan in the presence of the presidents of the two countries Ebrahim Seyed Ebrahim Raisi and Mirziyoyev.

The high-ranking officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Uzbekistan signed a joint declaration communiqué and 10 cooperation documents on Sunday afternoon.

The preferential trade agreement and cooperation in the fields of transportation and transit, pharmaceuticals, standards and insurance, joint free zones, technology and innovation, and agriculture, were signed between Iran and Uzbekistan.

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi officially welcomed his Uzbek counterpart at the Saadabad complex in Tehran.

The presidents of Iran and Uzbekistan also held a private meeting with each other and then, they participated in the signing ceremony of cooperation documents between the officials of the two countries.

High-ranking delegations of the two countries also discussed ways to bolster bilateral cooperation.

Upon his arrival, Mirziyoyev was welcomed by the Iranian Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade Abbas Aliabadi at Mehrabad Airport.

On Saturday officials of both countries said that Iranian and Uzbek officials are considering to increase the value of bilateral trade exchange to \$1 billion.

Minister of Investment, Industry and Trade of Republic of Uzbekistan Laziz Kudratov announced the provision of a roadmap for achieving \$1 billion worth of trade between Tehran and Tashkent.

Speaking on the sidelines of a meeting of the Iran-Uzbekistan Joint Economic Cooperation Commission on Saturday, he said that deepening relations with Iran is one of the priorities of the government of Uzbekistan.

Uzbekistan will make its utmost efforts to pave the way for expanding relations with Iran in all fields, Kudratov underlined.

Very good agreements were achieved at the Iran-Uzbekistan Joint Economic Cooperation Commission held in Uzbekistan, one of the most important of which is related to the provision of a comprehensive roadmap to achieve bilateral trade to \$1 billion, he said.

He added that a mechanism should be defined in order to raise the volume of bilateral transactions.

## Hamas Hails UN Committee Statement Slamming Israeli Crimes Against Palestinians

GAZA (Dispatches) - A senior official of the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas has lauded a recent statement by a UN committee that declared it was "appalled" by the growing number of Palestinians killed by Israeli forces in the occupied territories.

Basem Naim, the head of Hamas' Department of Politics and Foreign Relations, welcomed on Saturday the end-of-mission statement of the UN Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories.

"The statement of the committee constitutes a significant step towards exposing and prosecuting repeated Israeli crimes against the Palestinian people in addition to achieving the rights of the Palestinian people," Naim said as quoted in a report by the Palestinian Information Center.

The senior Hamas official further affirmed that crimes against the Palestinian people by the occupying Israeli regime -- including killing, land confiscation, arbitrary arrest, and settlement expansion policies -- are part of the racist agenda of the illegitimate entity.

The statement was issued after the UN Special Committee's visit to the occupied Palestinian territories as tensions escalated by the Tel Aviv regime since the holy fasting month of Ramadan.

Over the past months, the Israeli regime has intensified attacks against Palestinian towns and cities throughout the occupied territories. As a result of these attacks, dozens of Palestinians have lost their lives and many others have been arrested.

Most of the raids have targeted the cities of Nablus and Jenin in the occupied West Bank, where the regime's forces have been trying to stifle a growing Palestinian resistance against the occupation.

One of the objectives of Israeli raids on various locations across the occupied West Bank has been to raze the structures that belong to the Palestinians, whom the regime accuses of killing Zionist settlers.

As a result of these attacks, over 160 Palestinians, including 28 children, have lost their lives and many others have been arrested in 2023.

In another development on Saturday, a Gaza-based foundation for prisoners censured the Israeli regime's attempts to approve a bill aimed at handing down prison sentences to Palestinian minors.

Waed Prisoners' Affairs Association condemned in a press statement the Israeli Knesset's intention to draft a bill that allows jailing Palestinian children as young as 12, saying the bid reflects the fascist policies practiced by the Israeli regime against Palestinian children.

## ViewPoint

By: Hamid Reza Naghashian

## What Should We Call "Erdogan"?

Turkey's presidential elections ended with Recep Tayyip Erdogan's retaining his crown of kingdom with winning with only low margin of 52% of votes and it was expected him to choose Iran as his first destination for visit after his re-election but the dream of Turkestan (Turk Land) drove him to a wrong destination Baku and his remarks in Baku was a mistake worse than his visit.

Action for adopting foreign policy in the field of neighborhood after any election is very strategic and in fact it brands its signs on the forehead of the executor and it will be never cleaned up. Islamic nations today need maturity among their leaders to provide the ground for civilizing but unpleasant sound and awkward behavior creates a lasting scar on the body of the revived Islamic civilization and its healing takes long time.

The least expectation was that Erdogan to make most of new correlation between Tehran and Riyadh and to join this effective unity. He definitely knows that a new chapter in Islamic relations has been opened in the region or better to say in the world which can be reviewed based on the détente. Action for détente will not be definitely in the benefit of Muslim nations in the region because we all witnessed immediately after revelation of the détente process in the Persian Gulf, Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that some disaster has happened which has ruined all calculations of Israel in the region.

Erdogan with his remarks please and hearten Netanyahu. This behavior happens in a condition that Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister visits Tehran for re-opening embassy along with officially endorsing the détente-centered foreign policy.

This visit happened while three world military powers, Biden's U.S., Putin's Russia and Xi's China, are at the climax of creating tension. Ukraine's wound is getting worse day in day and this clearly shows that with publishing of any news regarding revival of strategic and civilizing relations, the Zionist regime trembles with fear from inside.

Now Mr. Erdogan is craving for creating rift and with his visit to Baku is fanning the flame of war in Karabakh, and Azerbaijan is also unaware of Turkey's ill intention of a united Turkestan (Turk land) and is not aware of Erdogan's plot as he considers Azerbaijan as one of his provinces. In the current bad economic condition of Turkey, such an act can be attributed to a drunkard than a sober for taking a correct and strategic action in line with Turkish people's interests.

[See Page 7](#)

## Iran Full Membership of SCO on Top Agenda at Next Summit

TEHRAN (PressTV) - A senior Russian official has said that Iran's full membership of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) will be at the top of the agenda of the upcoming summit of the bloc.

Bakhtiyar Khakimov, Russia's presidential representative for SCO affairs, made the remarks on the sidelines of the 26th annual St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF).

"Iran's accession as a full member will be one of the key decisions of the July 4 summit that will take place in New Delhi via video conference. Iran has completed the mandatory procedures and will join the family of SCO member states at the New Delhi summit," he said.

SCO is a transcontinental political, economic, and security alliance, which has a total of eight members. Iran is the observer SCO country that is set to become a full-time member of the charter.

Khakimov also said that at the upcoming SCO summit, a memorandum will also be signed on Belarus' obligations aimed at obtaining the status of a member state in the organization.

[See Page 7](#)

Sokhan Gostar Institute

# IRAN NEWS

PRIVATE ENGLISH NEWSPAPER IN IRAN



Advertisement Department  
021-44253335-39  
www.irannewsdaily.com  
info@irannewsdaily.com

@irannewsdaily @irannewsdaily

## Iran Strongly Condemns Terrorist Attack on Ugandan School

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Nasser Kanaani on Sunday strongly condemned the deadly terrorist attack on a Ugandan school which left several students killed and injured.

Considering the horrible act of terrorism in Uganda a cause for concern, Kanaani stressed that the barbaric attack once again showed that terrorism and extremism are a pervasive danger to the world community.

The senior Iranian diplomat also called on the international community and relevant bodies to effectively cooperate in fighting such terrorist actions.

Offering condolences to Uganda's government and nation, Kan'ani expressed hope that the serious fight against terrorism and extremism will result in establishing peace and stability in different parts of the world, including Africa.

## Iran Faces No Limits In Developing Ties With Pakistan

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

**TEHRAN - Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian says Iran faces no limits in developing its ties with Pakistan, noting that Islamabad enjoys a special place in Tehran's foreign policy affairs.**

The top diplomat made the remarks on Saturday, meeting in Tehran with the visiting Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, Asad Majeed Khan.

Amirabdollahian appraised the current status of the bilateral relations as favorable and oriented towards further development. He also commended the standing level of Iran's bilateral and international cooperation with Pakistan.

The Iranian foreign minister pointed to the history of the countries' ties, saying the relations boasted many instances of commonality, and urging both countries to exploit all available capacities towards further enrichment of the relations.

Amirabdollahian referred to a recent meeting that took place between Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and Pakistan's Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, during which the officials inaugurated two important border projects, saying Pakistan functioned as an important link in Iran's political dealings with its neighbors.

For his part, the Pakistani official conveyed Sharif's regards to Amirabdollahian, providing the latter with a report on the contents of the latest round of political consultations between the countries.



Khan considered the consultations to be of strategic importance to the further development of the countries' relations, laying emphasis on the importance of additional expansion of the ties.

The official, meanwhile, presented Amirabdollahian with an invitation extended by Pakistani Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto for the Iranian foreign minister to visit Pakistan. Meanwhile a consultative meeting of Iran Pakistan was attended by senior officials from both countries in Tehran on Saturday.

During the meeting, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Ali Bagheri Kani and Foreign Secretary of Pakistan Asad Majeed Khan discussed a wide range of issues, including political, economic, military and security cooperation.

The two officials also reviewed the latest regional and international developments.

They agreed to form committees to give a boost to cooperation in different areas so as to implement already stalled agreements.

## Iran Opens House of Innovation And Technology in Uzbekistan

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iran inaugurated the House of Innovation and Technology in the Uzbek capital with the aim of expanding technological cooperation with the neighboring country.

The "Iran's House of Innovation and Technology in Tashkent" was opened virtually in an online meeting in the presence of Iran's Vice President for Science, Technology and Knowledge-Based Economy Rohollah Dehghani and the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation of the Republic of Uzbekistan Ibrahim Yulchiyevich Abdurakhmonov.

In the meeting, Dehghani said that the cultural and historical similarities between the two countries pave the way for the development of knowledge-based economic cooperation.

Dehghani stated that the establishment of Iran's Technology and Innovation House in Uzbekistan will lay the ground for cooperation between the two sides based on new issues.

"In addition to following up on previous agreements, we are ready to work on new issues and topics for cooperation. These co-operations will be based on the development of the knowledge-based economy," he said.

Iranian knowledge-based companies are ready to cooperate with Uzbekistan and use the capacities of Uzbek companies, the Iranian vice president further said, stressing the need for harmonizing the standards to increase cooperation between the sides.

### Call for Setting Nuclear Industry as Model for Other Industries

TEHRAN (PressTV) - President Ebrahim Raisi says the success achieved in Iran's nuclear industry under sanctions and threats should serve as a model for other industries.

"The nuclear industry's achievements manifest how the country's beloved youth and scientists turned threats and sanctions into opportunities," he said during a visit to the exhibition of the Iranian nuclear capabilities in Tehran on Sunday.

"We need to spread the capabilities and technologies acquired in the nuclear industry to other industries, especially the automotive sector, so that they could reach this stage of success."

The Iranian chief executive also highlighted the effects of nuclear technology on people's lives, especially in the areas of health and medicine, agriculture and industry, as well as oil and gas sectors.

He further hailed as "one of the country's great honors" the fact that millions of people have been saved from disease due to the will of Iranian scientists in converting their knowledge into a capability in the nuclear field.

Iran recorded 159 nuclear achievements last year despite US bans: Nuclear chief

The nuclear industry has generated power for the country, President Raisi said, rejecting the idea that the creation of power lies in the production of nuclear arms.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly announced that it will never go after the production of nuclear weapons given its religious beliefs and the emphasis of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, despite the fact that such a capability exists in the country," he asserted.

## Regional Stability Paramount to a Secure Future

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian says regional stability is of paramount importance to the development of a more secure and prosperous future.

The minister made the remarks in a Saturday joint press conference with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan, who is in Tehran on the first visit since the two West Asian powers agreed to restore ties following a seven-year rupture.

"Overall stability and security of every country in the region is a fundamental and vital issue for all, and an undeniable necessity to reach a safer, more prosperous and more developed future."

He said to the Islamic Republic, security has never meant militarization. "Security is a comprehensive concept encompassing political, cultural, social, economic and commercial aspects among regional countries."

Elsewhere in the presser, Amirabdollahian hailed the current visit by his Saudi counterpart to Tehran, some 100 days after the rapprochement agreement. He said the two countries have named their ambassadors during this period.

The top Iranian diplomat thanked Saudi Arabia's assistance to the Islamic Republic to reopen its diplomatic missions. "We have also provided the necessary measures



and facilities for the reopening of Saudi diplomatic missions."

The minister said Iran has also prepared the ground for Saudi nationals' trip to religious and tourist sites in the country.

Amirabdollahian said Tehran and Riyadh agreed on the significance of setting up a joint economic commission and political and border committees, combating drug trafficking and enhancing cooperation in the environmental sector.

He said Iran and Saudi Arabia would start implementing the agreements reached on Saturday after approval by senior officials.

The Saudi foreign minister, for his part, said he held positive and transparent talks with his Iranian counterpart.

Bin Farhan said Saudi Arabia would reopen its embassy in Tehran soon and thanked Iran for providing facilities to his country to reopen the diplomatic missions.

The Saudi minister underscored the importance of the restoration of relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia as key players in the region, and said ties are based on the principles of mutual respect, non-interference in internal affairs and adherence to the UN Charter.

The foreign minister of Saudi Arabia said his country will use all the capacities to serve the Iranian pilgrims performing annual Hajj rituals.

## Iran Eyes Rise in Trade With New Terminal on Turkish Border

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran is to launch a new terminal on its border with Turkey amid efforts to boost international trade via its territory.

Iran's Road Maintenance & Transportation Organization (RTMO) said in a statement on Saturday that the Razi Border Terminal will be officially inaugurated within days in a ceremony that will be attended by senior government officials.

It said the terminal will make it much easier for

passengers and cargo trucks to travel between Iran and Turkey.

Iran's official IRNA news agency said the terminal will also help boost bilateral trade between Iran and Turkey amid plans by the two countries to meet a \$30 billion target in their annual exchanges.

Iran started construction of the Razi Border Terminal in 2019 and has spent some \$25 million on the project so far.

The three-story terminal can process passengers and goods 24 hours a day and in three shifts.

RTMO figures showed that the time needed to process passengers travelling via the border between Iran and Turkey would drop from an average of three hours to 15 minutes with the launch of the new terminal in Razi crossing point.

The crossing is near Qotur, a border area located some 70 kilometers from Khoy, the second largest city in Iran's West Azerbaijan province.



**Notice of tender for export sale**  
**No. Z/1402/08**  
**Golgohar Mining and Industrial Company**

Hereby Golgohar Mining & Industrial Co. announces selling and export 70,000 metric tons of Pellet (%Fe:65.00) on basis of F.O.B at Barco Jetty Bandar Abbas - Iran. Interested bidders should find tender documents at Golgohar website: [www.geg.ir](http://www.geg.ir). All bids on conformity to tender instructions must be submitted no later than 14:00 P.M. on 26. June.2023 to Golgohar complex in sirjan (50 km in shiraz road).

Bidders are invited to the transactions commission department of the seller with an introduction letter of interested buyer and personal identification of the representative. Tender results shall be announced at 10:00 A.M. on 27.June.2023 at the office of the Seller.

GOLGOHAR MINING & INDUSTRIAL CO.

Analysis %		
Min	65.00	Fe
Max	1.0	FeO
Max	0.05	P
Max	0.01	S
Max	3.5	SiO2
Max	0.7	Al2O3
Max	0.9	CaO
Max	2.5	MgO
Ave	255	CCS(kg/p)
Min	90	8-16 mm%
Ave	5	-6 mm%
Max	3.8	A.1%
Min	95	T.1%
19-24		Prososity%
Min	90	Reducibility%

## China Biggest Export Destination for Iran

TEHRAN (IP) - Deputy Minister of Economy and Head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), has announced that the development of Iran's trade with neighboring countries and strategic partners, using the capacity of customs diplomacy, is on their agenda.

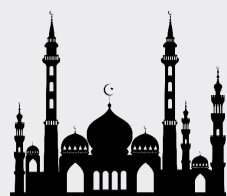
Mohammad Rezvani-Far stated that customs agreements have been signed in various fields between Iran and the countries of Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Indonesia, and the Eurasian Economic Union to facilitate trade.

According to the Head of the IRICA, online document exchange, facilitation and streamlining of trade between countries, joint training courses, and exchanging knowledge and experiences are among the items agreed upon.

Rezvani-Far said: In order to use the capabilities of customs diplomacy with neighboring countries, Iranian customs will have an active presence in the ECO meeting, which will be held with the presence of the heads of 10 member customs.

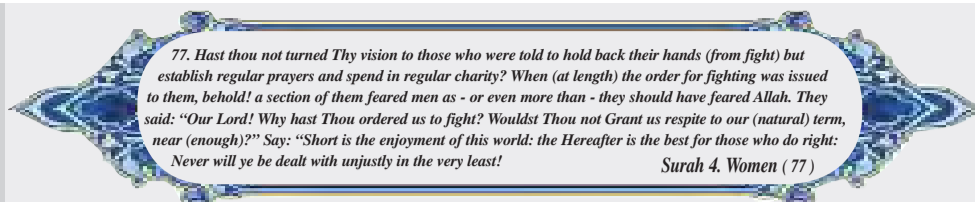
Stating that China is Iran's largest trading partner in exports and second trading partner in imports, Rezvani-Far said that creating a green customs corridor between Iran and China to facilitate trade is one of their priorities.

He also mentioned that directors of border customs hold continuous meetings with their counterparts in neighboring countries to increase interaction between Iranian customs and neighboring countries' customs for facilitating trade.



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	12:05
■ Evening (Maghreb)	19:44
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	03:02
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	04:48



# Iran Constructing 120-Megawatt Power Plant in Sri Lanka

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

**TEHRAN - The capacity of hydroelectric power plants in Iran exceeds 13,000 megawatts, the Iranian energy minister said, revealing salient progress in the final stage of construction of a 120-megawatt power plant by the Iranian experts in Sri Lanka.**

In a meeting with Sri Lanka's Minister of Irrigation Chamal Rajapaksa on Sunday, Ali Akbar Mehrabian pointed to the amicable historical relations between the two countries and expressed hope that the power plants being built by expert Iranian engineers in Sri Lanka will be inaugurated in the near future.

Emphasizing the revival and development of economic, political and cultural ties between Tehran and Colombo, Iran's energy minister further pointed out that the two countries have much potential to strengthen their bilateral ties in all fields.

He termed establishing a joint economic, political and cultural Cooperation commission for realizing the aforementioned objective "effective and constructive".

Launch of the commission will help boost trade and economic activities between the two countries optimally, Mehrabian emphasized.

Elsewhere in his remarks, he highlighted the capabilities and potentials of Iranian companies in implementing projects in the water and electricity fields.

He also referred to the significance of the multipurpose and giant project of "Uma Oya" being built by expert Iranian manpower in Sri Lanka and added that the progress of this successful project by Iranian engineers is the result of the fruitful experience of cooperation between the two countries.

He added that today over 13,000 megawatts of hydro power plant exists in Iran, adding that with construction of this power plant in Sri Lanka, the capacity for



producing 120 megawatts of electricity will be provided which is accompanied with considerable value added.

Then Rajapaksa, for his part, expressed creating the ground for broadening cooperation and relation with Iran and said that in Sri Lanka there are three ministries of energy, water and irrigation.

He added that Sri Lanka in the past year due to the post-Covid era had no good condition in the field of fuel and energy but today it is getting better and according, there is hope and expectation that Iran and Sri Lanka in the future would start new projects in the field of energy and drinking water.

Rajapaksa then pointed to the considerable rise in price of energy in Sri Lanka, adding that 50% of the required energy of the country is provided through water and some part through renewable energies and the other part through solar and wind energies. He then termed important investment in the infrastructures for construction of renewable energies, adding that Tehran and Colombo can pursue issues for cooperation in this field, reiterating that one-third of Sri Lanka's lands has capacity for advancing this cooperation and Iranians can invest in this field.

Rajapaksa then welcomed implementing joint projects with Iran, adding that he will do his best to broaden ties between the two countries and his country will study the project for water supply tunnel in his country.

## Over 2.8m Tons of Commodities Traded on IME Last Week

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) last week witnessed trade of 2,808,878 tons of commodities and 588 vehicles with a total trading value of more than \$769m on its physical market.



According to a report by the IME's International Affairs and PR, the exchange saw on its metals and minerals trading floor trade of 2,281,504 tons of commodities and 588 vehicles valued at more than \$561m.

On this floor the IME sold 1,217,932 tons of cement, 547,426 tons of steel, 399,000 tons of iron ore, 104,100 tons of sponge iron, 10,340 tons of aluminum, 8,872 tons of copper, 1,850 tons of zinc, 200 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 100 tons of cast iron and 75 tons of precious metals concentrate.

Furthermore, the IME witnessed on both domestic and export rings of its oil and petrochemical trading floor 511,237 tons of commodities worth nearly \$197m.

Commodities traded on this floor included 149,000 tons of vacuum bottom, 143,223 tons of bitumen, 89,550 tons of polymeric products, 84,000 tons of lube cut, 37,970 tons of chemicals, 4,247 tons of oil, 3,200 tons of sulfur, 552 tons of petroleum products, 180 tons of feedstocks and 170 tons of insulation.

The IME also traded within the same week 16,136 tons of commodities on its side market.

## New TCCIMA Head Outlines His Plans



TEHRAN (MNA) - The newly elected Head of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) Mahmoud Najafi-Arab has outlined the chamber's plan for the next four years, the TCCIMA reported.

Improving the status of the private sector, following up on the demands of the private sector, implementing a model of transparent and responsive management, increasing members, pursuing economic diplomacy, and solving the main challenges of the private sector, including shrinking the government and reducing interference are the main programs that the chamber will be following over the next four years, according to Najafi-Arab.

"We must be the voice of the private sector, the voice of the industrialists, merchants, farmers, mining operators, and entrepreneurs who have tried with great difficulty to keep the country's economy up and running despite the sanctions", he said.

According to the official, one of the main priorities of the TCCIMA during his tenure will be to reduce government interference in private sector affairs.

"Unfortunately, we see that instead of reducing interference in the economy, as I said before, the government has become the main competitor of the private sector, and this competition is not even fair. The government carries out mandatory and regulatory pricing, benefits from various tariff exemptions, etc., and expects the private sector to thrive in such conditions; In this situation, how can the private sector be able to compete?", the official regretted.

## Iran to Begin Extraction From New Copper Deposit

TEHRAN (MNA) - The CEO of the National Copper Industries Company of Iran has said that extraction at the newly discovered Sarudun copper deposit, which is said to be the biggest in the Middle East and North Africa, will start next month.

The CEO of Iran's National Copper Industries Company (NICICO) Ali Rostami told national TV that the extraction from Sarudun copper deposit will start next month.

Rostami said Sarudun is the biggest discovered copper reserve discovered after the Islamic Revolution in Iran, adding that the discovery of the huge deposit was done through the efforts of Iranian experts.

He also said the reserve is the biggest in Iran, the Middle East and North Africa region.

According to CEO, the porphyry copper deposit is geographically located in an area two kilometers away from the Sarcheshmeh region in the southeastern province of Kerman and contains some 3 billion metric tons of copper ore with a purity of 42%.

Rostami said after the discovery, Iran's ranking in the list of top countries which is currently 5th will move up.

## Turkey Hosts Meeting of Istanbul-Tehran-Islamabad Cargo Train Working Group

ISLAMABAD (IRNA) - The 13th meeting of the working group on the Istanbul-Tehran-Islamabad cargo train has been held in Istanbul, according to the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

The meeting, held with cooperation between the Turkish government and ECO last week, gathered delegations from Iran, Pakistan and Turkey as well as representatives from ECO Trade and Development Bank and the private sector.

It focused on developing infrastructures and transport capacities and investigating the financial contribution

of the private sector and the Islamic Development Bank in the rail corridor.

During the meeting, the attendees looked at various aspects, issues and requirements of the ITI train, including building containers and digitalizing the procedures between countries along the corridor, and reviewed the overall operational status of the ECO train, according to ECO's public relations.

The ITI railway is 6,500 km long, with 2,570 km being on Iranian soil, 2,000 km in Turkey, and about 1,900 km in Pakistan.

## Annual Minerals Extraction Rises 5%

TEHRAN (MNA) - Iranian mines managed to extract 650 million tons of minerals in the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20), registering a five percent growth compared to the preceding year, an official with the country's Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry said.

According to Mehdi Hamidi, the director-general of the Mining Operations Office at the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry, the minerals extracted from mines have been mainly used in processing industries and related factories inside the country, IRIB reported.

Speaking at a mining conference in central Yazd Province, Hamidi noted that reviving idle mines, holding tenders for mining projects, developing mining activities, and modernization of the country's mining machinery are among the main plans of the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry this year as a strategy for the development of the mining sector.

Having 81 different types of minerals, Iran is one of the top 10 mineral-rich countries across the globe. In this regard, the Iranian government has been seriously pursuing several programs for promoting the mining sector as a major contributor to the country's economic growth.

Iran's proven iron ore reserves are 2.7 billion tons, while the country's copper reserves are 2.6 billion tons. The country also has 11 million tons of zinc reserves.

The total proven reserves of Iran's mines are estimated at about 60 billion tons, which is expected to reach more than 100 billion tons with the implementation of the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry's exploration programs

percent active in the previous year to increase production levels.

Back in January, the deputy head of Iran Power Plant Repairs Company said the country is currently among the world's top manufacturers of steam and gas turbines.

"Currently, there are less than 10 major turbine manufacturing companies in the world, including GI, Siemens, and MAPNA that manufacture gas and steam turbines," Mohammad Gharaei said. The official noted that Iran is also among the world's leading countries in terms of repairing and overhauling turbines.

"We have carried out many international projects and we are negotiating with Russia, Iraq, Turkey, and Syria to collaborate in new important projects," Gharaei said.

## Turbine Manufacturing Rises Nearly 30%

TEHRAN (MNA) - Turbine manufacturing in Iran witnessed a 29.5 percent surge in the previous Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20) and the number of people working in the sector also increased by four-fold, data released by the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) showed.

As Fars News Agency reported, currently, over 11,600 people are active in the power plant turbine manufacturing industry.

According to the deputy head of MAPNA Group, which is Iran's top power plant and turbine manufacturing enterprise, all the company's operational teams were 100

## HOSCO Top Organization in Field of Social Responsibilities



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Hormozgan Steel Company (HOSCO) won the top organization award in the category of social responsibilities during the 22nd Public Relations Industry Awards of Iran.

According to reports of Hormozgan Steel Company, the first national conference of public relations managers and the 22nd Public Relations Industry Award of Iran was held with presence of managers, experts and elites of public relations at Industrial Management Institute.

The special awards (NAIPRI) are the most prestigious awards of the public relations in Iran and the event has started since 2001 to honor the achievements of the public relations of organizations.

In this edition, the public relations of HOSCO due to its extensive activities in the field of social responsibilities won the top organization award in social responsibilities.

## Selahvarzi Elected as ICCIMA President

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Hossein Selahvarzi was elected as the president of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) on Sunday.



The election to select the new president of ICCIMA was officially held on Sunday morning in Tehran with attendance of 426 members of the Board of Representative.

Selahvarzi secured 265 votes of the total votes cast to become the president of Iran Chamber of Commerce which is known as the country's private sector parliament.

He was followed by Younes Jaeleh and Hossein Pirmoazzen with 95 and 62 votes respectively. The rest four votes were announced dismissed.

The new ICCIMA president replaces Gholam Hossein Shafei who served in the post since September 2016.

Shafei refrained to run for the 10th edition of the local chambers of commerce elections in March and will not be a member of the board of representatives in the new tenure.

## North Korea Starts Key party Meeting

SEOUL (Dispatches) - North Korea convened a key party meeting to decide its diplomatic and defence strategy "to cope with the changed international situation", with leader Kim Jong Un attending, state media KCNA said.

The enlarged plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the ruling Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) opened on Friday and plans to also review the country's economic projects during the first half of this year, KCNA said without further elaborating.

The meeting will likely be held for multiple days.



## Lula to Invite Pope Francis to Brazilian Catholic Festival

SAO PAULO (Dispatches) - Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said that he will invite Pope Francis to visit the Catholic festival of the Cirio de Nazare, which takes place annually in October in the northern city of Belem.

Lula travels to Europe next week and will have an audience with Pope Francis on Tuesday.

"I want to invite him to come to Brazil again. But I wanted to invite him to come to the Cirio celebration here, Lula said during an event in the state of Para. "It would be extraordinary if he could participate." Lula had a phone call with Pope Francis on May 31 to discuss topics such as the war in Ukraine and environmental protection in Brazil.



## Putin Lectures African Leaders Seeking to Mediate in Ukraine



MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russian President Vladimir Putin interrupted opening remarks by African leaders seeking to mediate in the Ukraine conflict to deliver a list of reasons why he believed many of their proposals were misguided.

Putin first welcomed leaders from Senegal, Egypt, Zambia, Uganda, Congo Republic, Comoros and South Africa to the 18th-century Konstantinovsky Palace on the southern shore of the Gulf of Finland, stressing Russia's commitment to the continent.

But after presentations from the Comoran, Senegalese and South African leaders, he stepped in to challenge the assumptions of the plan before the round of comments from all the representatives could go any further.

Putin reiterated his position that Ukraine and the West had started the conflict long before Russia sent its armed forces over the border in February last year.

He said the West, not Russia, was responsible for a sharp rise in global food prices early last year.

He told the delegation that Ukrainian grain exports from Black Sea ports that Russia has permitted for the past year were doing nothing to alleviate Africa's difficulties with high food prices because they had largely gone to wealthy countries.

He said Russia had never refused talks with the Ukrainian side, which had been blocked by Kyiv.

The African plan includes a call for all children caught up in the conflict to be returned to where they came from, but Putin said Russia was not preventing any Ukrainian children from returning home.

"We took them out of a conflict zone, saving their lives," he said.

The African leaders are seeking agreement on a series of "confidence building measures" even as Ukraine last week began a counteroffensive to push back Russian forces from Ukrainian territory they occupy.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa laid out the 10 points of the African initiative, after Comoros President Azali Assoumani, current chairman of the African Union, told Putin:

"We've come here to listen to you, and through you the Russian people, and encourage you to enter negotiations with Ukraine in order to put an end to the difficult ordeal.

"We gave ourselves this mission because, as Africans, unfortunately, we have had to manage numerous conflicts, and it's through dialogue and negotiations that we have succeeded at resolving them."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy had said after meeting the leaders in Kyiv on Friday that peace talks with Russia would be possible only after Moscow withdrew its forces from occupied Ukrainian territory.

He added that he could not understand what could be gained from the delegation meeting Putin.

Putin said Russia was "open to constructive dialogue with anyone who wants to establish peace on the principles of fairness and acknowledgement of the legitimate interests of the parties".

However, Russia has said repeatedly that any settlement must take account of "new realities", meaning its declared annexation of five Ukrainian provinces, four of which it only partially controls.

## Dozens Killed in Militant Attack On School in Western Uganda

MPONDWE (Dispatches) - Militants linked to the Islamic State group massacred at least 41 people, mostly students, in western Uganda, in the country's deadliest such attack in over a decade, officials said.

The military said it was pursuing the attackers from the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), who also abducted six people during a raid on a school late Friday before fleeing back towards the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Officials and witnesses said guns and knives were used in a grisly late-night assault and dormitories set ablaze at Lhubirihia Secondary School in Mpondwe.

Police and army officials blamed the ADF, one of the deadliest militias over the border in DR Congo's strife-torn east, which the Islamic State group has called its local offshoot.

Sylvester Mapozi, the town council mayor of Mpondwe-Lhubirihia where the attack occurred, said 39 students were killed at the school. "Within the community, as they (attackers) were going back, they also murdered two people, a female and a male. This is bringing up the number to 41," he said.

Many of the deceased were burned beyond recognition while other students were still unaccounted for, he said: "We are yet to identify and establish their whereabouts."

Mumbere Edgar Dido, 16, said the attackers arrived at his dormitory carrying machetes and guns and opened fire from outside, sending everyone diving under their beds. "They continued to shoot through the windows, then set fire to our room while we were inside, before going to the girls' dormitory," he said.

Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces (UPDF) spokesman Felix Kulayigye said the six kidnapped were taken towards Virunga National Park, a vast expanse which straddles the border.

"UPDF embarked on pursuing the perpetrators to rescue the abducted students."

Police have not released details about the victims' ages or how many were students.

Outside the school, heavily armed soldiers and police stood guard, where a large crowd gathered and distraught survivors were comforted by loved ones.



## Ukraine Won't Have Easy Path to Join NATO

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - The United States won't make special arrangements for Ukraine to join the NATO military alliance, President Joe Biden said Saturday, despite Russia's invasion.

"They've got to meet the same standards. So we're not going to make it easy," the US president told reporters near Washington.

The comments come before NATO leaders are set to meet in Lithuania next month. In a symbolic step, alliance leaders are aiming to hold a first session of a NATO-Ukraine Council with President Volodymyr Zelenskiy in the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius, the alliance's chief Jens Stoltenberg said Friday in Brussels.

The meeting will give Kyiv a more equal seat at the table "to consult and decide on security issues," Stoltenberg said.

But Stoltenberg added that though NATO will tighten political ties with Ukraine at the summit, there will be no talk of membership for Kyiv.

"We're not going to discuss an invitation at the Vilnius Summit, but how we can move Ukraine closer to NATO," Stoltenberg said.

"I'm confident that we will find a good solution and consensus."

NATO nations in eastern Europe have pushed for a better roadmap for Ukraine to obtain membership, but key allies like the United States and Germany have been reluctant to go much beyond a vague 2014 pledge that Kyiv will join one day.

German Defense Minister Boris Pistorius, however, had suggested Friday it was possible some requirements for membership could be eased if Ukraine was eventually ready to join.

NATO countries have already supplied weaponry worth tens of billions of dollars to Ukraine since Moscow launched its all-out invasion last February.

Yet some leaders in NATO worry that expanding membership to Ukraine would increase the chance of the alliance confronting Russia directly in a war.

## Plane Leaves Yemen Capital for Saudi, First Since 2016

SANAA (Dispatches) - The first commercial flight from Yemen's rebel-held capital to Saudi Arabia since 2016 took off carrying hajj pilgrims on Saturday, in the latest sign of easing tensions after years of war.

A Yemenia Airways plane carrying 277 travellers departed at around 8 pm (1700 GMT), an official told AFP, seven years after Sanaa's international airport was blockaded by the Saudi-led coalition fighting the Huthi rebels.

"Hopefully, the blockade will end and the airport will remain open. We are very happy and relieved, and I cannot describe the feeling," said Mohammad Askar, one of the travellers.

The flight is the first since Sanaa's airport was closed by the coalition blockade in August 2016, more than a year into the Saudi-led military campaign to dislodge the Huthis.

Air traffic was largely halted by the blockade, but there have been exemptions for aid flights that are a lifeline for the population.

Hundreds of thousands of people have died in the fighting in Yemen or from indirect causes such as lack of food or water, in what the United Nations calls one of the world's biggest humanitarian crises.

But despite coalition bombing raids and ground

clashes, the Huthis, who seized control of Sanaa in 2014, ousting the internationally recognised government, rule over large swathes of the country.

Two more flights will depart on Monday and Tuesday, officials said. The Huthis' Works Minister Ghaleb Mutlaq said about 200 flights would be needed to accommodate the 24,000 people that he said wanted to travel.

"We consider what is happening today as a good gesture, so that airports, especially Sanaa airport, will be opened to Yemeni travellers," Najeeb Al-Aji, the Huthis' minister of guidance, hajj and umrah, told journalists.

Fighting in Yemen sharply declined after a UN-brokered truce came into effect in April last year, and full-scale hostilities did not resume even when the ceasefire lapsed in October.

Among the terms of the truce was a resumption in international flights from Sanaa. The first commercial flight in six years took off for Jordan's capital Amman in May last year.

Peace efforts have accelerated since March when Saudi Arabia, seeking to calm the region as it tries to revamp its oil-reliant economy and attract investment, announced a surprise rapprochement with its powerful rival Iran, seven years after they broke off ties.



## Sudan War Intensifies With Khartoum Air Strikes

KHARTOUM (Dispatches) -

Air strikes killed or wounded more than two dozen civilians in Khartoum, a citizens' group said, as medics reported hundreds of wounded fleeing Sudan's western Darfur region in worsening violence of a two-month war.

The paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) claimed to have shot down a Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) fighter plane. A military source, not authorised to speak to the press, told AFP anonymously that a plane did go down but blamed a "malfunction".

The SAF, commanded by Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, has since April 15 been battling the RSF, headed by his former deputy Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, after the two fell out in a power struggle.

Witnesses say air strikes have intensified in the capital over the past few days. On Saturday, warplanes again struck residential districts of Khartoum, killing "17 civilians, including five children," according to a citizens' support committee.

Residents had earlier reported air strikes around the city's southern Yarmouk district -- home to a weapons manufacturing and arms depot complex where the RSF claimed "full control" in early June.

The citizen's committee added that 11 other civilians were wounded but AFP was not immediately able to independently confirm the committee's figures.

In a video published Friday on the army's Facebook page, deputy army chief Yasser Atta warned civilians to keep away from houses where the RSF are located because the army "will attack them at any time."

Since battles began, the death toll across the country has topped 2,000, the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project said.

Hundreds of kilometres (miles) west of Khartoum, up to 1,100 have been killed in the West Darfur state capital El Geneina alone, according to the U.S. State Department.

Medics said Saturday they were overwhelmed by the hundreds of wounded fleeing Sudan's Darfur region, which has become an increasing focus of global concern.

The dead have included West Darfur Governor Khamis Abdullah Abakar, killed after he criticised the paramilitaries in a Wednesday television interview. The RSF denied responsibility.



## Suicides and Homicides Among Young Americans Jumped Early In the Pandemic



NEW YORK (Dispatches) - The homicide rate for older U.S. teenagers rose to its highest point in nearly 25 years during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the suicide rate for adults in their early 20s was the worst in more than 50 years, government researchers said.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report examined the homicide and suicide rates among 10- to 24-year-olds from 2001 to 2021.

The increase is alarming and “reflects a mental health crisis among young people and a need for a number of policy changes,” said Dr. Steven Woolf, a Virginia Commonwealth University researcher who studies U.S. death trends and wasn’t involved in the CDC report.

Experts cited several possible reasons for the increases, including higher rates of depression, limited availability of mental health services and the number of guns in U.S. homes.

Guns were used in 54% of suicides and 93% of homicides among the age group in 2021, the most recent year for which statistics were available.

“Picture a teenager sitting in their bedroom feeling desperate and making a decision, impulsively, to take their own life,” Woolf said. If they have access to a gun, “it’s game over.”

Suicide and homicide were the second and third leading causes of death for 10- to 24-year-olds, after a category of accidental deaths that includes motor vehicle crashes, falls, drownings and overdoses. Other researchers have grouped the data by the method of death, and concluded that guns are now the biggest killer of U.S. children.

Earlier this year, Woolf and other researchers looking at CDC data noted dramatic increases in child and adolescent death rates overall at the beginning of the pandemic, and found suicide and homicide were important factors.

### The report also found:

—Suicide and homicide death rates remained far higher for older teenagers and young adults than they were for 10- to 14-year-olds.

—In 2021, there were about 2,900 suicides in youths ages 10 to 19, and 4,200 in 20- to 24-year-olds. About 3,000 homicide deaths were reported in the younger group, and nearly 3,900 in the adults in their early 20s.

—The homicide death rate jumped from 8.9 deaths per 100,000 teens aged 15 to 19 in 2019 to 12.3 in 2020. It rose to 12.8 deaths per 100,000 in 2021, the highest since 1997, according to CDC data.

—Homicide deaths became more common than suicide deaths among 15- to 19-year-olds, while suicide was more common in the younger and older age groups.

—While large increases were seen in homicide rates for young Black and Hispanic people in the U.S., there were not significant increases for their white counterparts, other CDC data shows.

—Among 20- to 24-year-olds, the homicide death rate jumped 34% from 2019 to 2020 — from 13.4 per 100,000 population to 18 per 100,000. It held stable in 2021, but the suicide rate rose enough in 2021 — to 19.4 per 100,000 — to surpass the homicide rate.

Suicide death rates in children and teens were rising before COVID-19, but they jumped up at the beginning of the pandemic. Dr. Madhukar Trivedi, a psychiatrist at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, said the reasons may be hard to pinpoint, but that isolation during COVID-19 lockdowns could be a factor.

“There is a misperception that if you talk to young people about depression, they’ll get depressed. A don’t-ask, don’t-tell policy for depression is not effective,” Trivedi said. “The earlier we can identify the ones who need help, the better chance we’ll have at saving lives.”

## Men More Likely Than Women to Die of Drug Overdose



NEW YORK (Dispatches) - American men die of drug overdoses at a higher rate than women, but new research shows that difference can’t be completely explained by factors like misuse or greater use.

A study led by scientists from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York City and the U.S. National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) found that men were two to three times more likely than women to die of a drug overdose between 2020 and 2021.

That included overdoses from opioids, such as fentanyl and heroin, and from stimulants, including methamphetamine and cocaine.

Men use drugs at higher rates than women, but this doesn’t explain all of the difference, the study authors said.

“Though men and women are being exposed to the modern, fentanyl-contaminated drug supply, something is leading men to die at significantly higher rates. It may be that men use drugs more frequently or in greater doses, which could increase their risk of death, or there may be protective factors among women that reduce their risk of death compared to men,” said study co-author Dr. Nora Volkow, director of the NIDA.

“Understanding the biological, behavioral and social factors that impact drug use and our bodies’ responses is critical to develop tailored tools to protect people from fatal overdose and other harms of drug use,” Volkow added in an NIDA news release.

In the study, the researchers analyzed data on overdose deaths in people aged 15 to 74 from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Wide-ranging Online Data for Epidemiologic Research (CDC WONDER) platform. They also used data from the annual National Surveys on Drug Use and Health to estimate and control for rates of drug misuse in men compared to women.

After controlling for a sex-specific rate of drug misuse, the researchers found that the overall rates of drug overdose deaths from synthetic opioids were 29 deaths per 100,000 people for men, compared to just over 11 for women.

For heroin, there were 5.5 deaths per 100,000 people for men and 2 per 100,000 for women. They found about 13 deaths per 100,000 people for men compared to 5.6 for women for stimulants. For cocaine in particular, there were 10.6 deaths per 100,000 for men and 4.2 for women.

This higher overdose death rate in men was observed across the life span and was consistent across states, the findings showed.

When the investigators analyzed the data by 10-year age groups, they found men had greater rates of death than women across each group for overdose deaths involving synthetic opioids, as well as for the other drug categories, with few exceptions.

The study authors suggested the findings are likely a combination of potentially greater biological vulnerability to drug toxicity, taking the drugs in a riskier way, and other social- and gender-related factors.

In all, nearly 107,000 people died of a drug overdose in 2021 in the United States, largely because of fentanyl.

“These data emphasize the importance of looking at the differences between men and women in a multilayered way,” said lead study author Eduardo Butelman, an assistant professor of psychiatry at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. “Moving forward, it will be important for researchers to continue to investigate how biology, social factors and behaviors intersect with sex and gender factors, and how all of these can impact addictive drug misuse and overdose deaths.”

## Scientists Link Disease That Permanently Bends Fingers to Neanderthal Genes



LONDON (Dispatches) - The so-called “Viking disease” causes the fingers of many aging northern European men to lock up in a bent position, and researchers now think they know why.

Genetic variants inherited from Neanderthal man appear to be the most powerful risk factors for developing Dupuytren’s contracture -- called the Viking disease because it mainly affects men descended from northern Europeans.

Up to 30% of men in northern Europe older than 60 suffer from the Viking disease, which usually begins as a lump in the palm of the hand. As the lump grows, it causes one or more fingers to lock in a bent position. The researchers analyzed data from more than 7,000 people affected by the disease, in hopes of finding a genetic cause.

Results showed that the three strongest risk factors for Viking disease are genetic, and are handed down from Neanderthal ancestors. Neanderthals lived in Europe and western Asia until about 40,000 years ago, when they were replaced by modern humans, researchers said. But before Neanderthals disappeared, they mixed with modern humans. As a result, from 1% to 2% of the genomes of people with roots outside of Africa come from Neanderthals.

“Since Dupuytren’s contracture is rarely seen in individuals of African descent, we wondered whether gene variants from Neanderthals can partly explain why people outside of Africa are affected,” said lead researcher Hugo Zeberg, an assistant professor in the department of physiology and pharmacology at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden.

The researchers analyzed data from three large clinical groups in the United States, United Kingdom and Finland, which allowed them to compare the genomes of nearly 7,900 sufferers against those of almost 646,000 healthy controls.

## Liquid Shock Absorbers in Football Helmets Could Reduce Impact on Brains



LONDON (Dispatches) - Liquid shock absorbers in a helmet could be one key to reducing the impact of concussions suffered while playing football, according to a paper published Friday by Stanford University researchers.

A virtual model of a football helmet designed by scientists at Stanford’s Camarillo Lab and containing 21 liquid shock absorbers, performed significantly better than existing equipment, according to the research published in the journal *Frontiers in Bioengineering and Biotechnology*.

The model was put through the evaluation protocol used by the National Football League and compared to four existing helmets.

Results showed the new helmet reduced the effects of impact by 33% when measuring Head Accelerate Response Metric or HARM score. The metric is used to evaluate helmet performance under impact.

Tests simulate impacts to the head at different speeds and in different locations.

Scientists took the further step of testing lower-impact hits because of evidence that the cumulative effect of hits that don’t cause concussions can also have serious health effects.

The new design, which is being developed alongside a private company, produced a better score in 33 out of 36 scenarios conducted by scientists.

“The liquid technology offered an average improvement of over 30% for both low and high velocities,” study author Dr. Yuzhe Liu said in the publication.

“It can dramatically reduce the loading on the brain that is experienced during all kinds of American football impacts.” Researchers have submitted a patent application for the design as they move to the next stage of development. “The next step for our team is to translate the computer model to a physical prototype,” the study’s lead author Nicholas Cecchi, a PhD candidate at Stanford said in the publication.

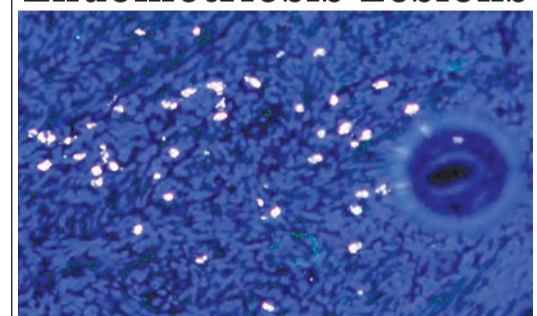
“After successfully completing that, we would also be interested in conducting human studies that could demonstrate either a reduction in concussion incidence or an attenuation of impact severity for sub-concussive impacts. We have plans to expand our implementation of liquid shock absorbers to more areas of the helmet, and more helmeted applications, to further improve brain safety for a wide variety of populations.”

Refinements and design improvements are still needed to the helmet’s face mask and chinstrap.

Cecchi said the subject is personal for most of the research team.

“Most of the members of our team have a personal connection to traumatic brain injury and we care deeply about ensuring long-term athlete brain health. Concussion and repeated head impacts are still a major problem in contact sports, and we believe that improved helmet technology can play an important role in reducing the risk of brain injury.”

## Antibiotic May Reduce Endometriosis Lesions



TOKYO (Dispatches) - Japanese researchers said in a new study that an antibiotic used for *Fusobacterium* can be taken to reduce lesions associated with endometriosis.

The results of the research from a group connected with the Nagoya University’s Graduate School of Medicine and iGCORE were published Wednesday in the journal *Science Translational Medicine*.

The study’s authors suggest that the findings could lead to new treatments for the formation of lesions associated with endometriosis.

The lesions are a gynecological disorder characterized by endometrial tissue usually found inside the uterus being found outside it.

One in 10 women ages 15 to 49 suffers from endometriosis, a disorder that can cause lifelong health problems, including pelvic pain and infertility.

While it can be treated using hormone therapy and surgical resection, those procedures sometimes can lead to serious side effects, and recurrence, along with having a significant impact on pregnancy.

The research group, in collaboration with the National Cancer Center, discovered that the uterus of mice infected with *Fusobacterium* had more and heavier lesions. The mice, however, that had been given an antibiotic to eradicate *Fusobacterium* saw improved lesion formation.

*Fusobacterium* are generally treated in the United States with so-called beta-lactam antibiotics, which include penicillin and cephalosporin.

“In this study, we demonstrated that the *Fusobacterium*-TAGLN-endometriosis axis is frequently dysregulated in endometriosis,” said Professor Yutaka Kondo, who led the study.

## Bank Deposits in U.S. Take Flight For First Time in Four Weeks

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Deposits and lending activity at commercial U.S. banks fell for the first time in four weeks in the week ended Jun. 7, the latest data from the Fed showed, serving as a reminder that the recovery from spring banking turmoil still has a ways to go.

Deposits at large U.S. banks fell \$79.2 billion to \$17.203 trillion from a week earlier, on a seasonally adjusted basis, marking the

biggest decline since March and the first in four weeks.

Commercial bank lending decreased \$49.3B to a seasonally adjusted \$12.090 trillion during the week.

Residential lending increased \$31.2B, commercial real estate loans climbed \$1.2B, while consumer loans were up \$1.3B from the prior week. Commercial and industrial loans were down \$13B from a week ago on a seasonally adjusted basis.



## BOJ Keeps Low Rates and Dovish Guidance, Markets Not So Sure

TOKYO (Dispatches) - The Bank of Japan maintained its ultra-easy monetary policy on Friday despite stronger-than-expected inflation, signalling it will remain a dovish outlier among global central banks and focus on supporting a fragile economic recovery.

The central bank also reiterated its view that inflation will slow later this year and a pledge to "patiently" sustain stimulus, suggesting its desire to wait until there is clarity on whether more demand-driven, durable price rise will take hold.

"We expect trend inflation to heighten as economic activity strengthens and the labour market tightens. But there's very high uncertainty on next year's wage negotiations and the sustainability of wage growth," Governor Kazuo Ueda told a briefing.

But with inflation exceeding the BOJ's 2% target for over a year and analysts casting doubt on its view the recent cost-push price rises are transitory, Ueda left room for a possible policy shift by dropping warnings on inflation risks.

"At present, inflation has exceeded 2% for 13 straight months but could fall below that level ahead. That's why we are not normalising monetary policy. But if that view changes sharply, we will have to change policy," he said.

The remark could keep alive market expectations that the BOJ could tweak its controversial bond yield curve control policy as early as next month, when it issues fresh quarterly growth and inflation projections. As widely expected, the BOJ maintained its -0.1% short-term interest rate target and a 0% cap on the 10-year bond yield set under its yield curve control (YCC) policy.

The BOJ's decision contrasts sharply with that of the European Central Bank, which raised borrowing costs to a 22-year high on Thursday. The U.S. Federal Reserve on Wednesday also signalled it was not yet done with its fight against inflation.

The yen fell broadly following the BOJ's announcement, hitting a fresh 15-year low of 153.97 per euro and sliding 0.25% at 140.66 to the dollar.

The benchmark 10-year Japanese government bond yield briefly fell to 0.4% after the decision, well off the implicit 0.5% cap set for the maturity.

Core consumer inflation hit 3.4% in April as rising raw material costs prodded firms to hike prices. Companies also offered pay hikes unseen in three decades this year, heightening prospects of an end to decades of deflation.

In a sign of its growing optimism over the wage outlook, the BOJ upgraded its view on job and income conditions to say they are "increasing moderately."

In a statement announcing the policy decision, the BOJ said it expects core consumer inflation to moderate toward the middle of the current fiscal year ending in March 2024 due to falling fuel and global commodity prices.

But analysts still expect the BOJ to revise up in July this fiscal year's inflation forecast from the 1.8% projection made three months ago, as companies hike prices more aggressively than initially expected.

While sticking to his view cost-push inflation will slow in coming months, Ueda acknowledged that inflation was not moderating as quickly as initially thought as companies continue to hike prices.

## Export Improvement Reflects Economic Strength

JAKARTA (Dispatches) - The improvement in Indonesia's export performance in May 2023 indicates the strength of the national economy amid a global slowdown, Head of the Fiscal Policy Agency of the Finance Ministry Febrio Kacaribu has said.

"Thus, the government has consistently maintained, and even improved this good performance by anticipating many risks, whether external or domestic, which could impact Indonesian exports," he said, according to a statement received here on Friday.

In May, national exports reached US\$21.72 billion, reflecting a growth of 0.96 percent year on year (yoy) and marking an increase after stagnating in April due to short workdays during Eid al-Fitr, he noted.

Kacaribu said that the positive performance in May was backed by the expansion of the manufacturing sector of Indonesia's trading partners, such as China, Japan, India, and the Philippines.

Moreover, in May, Indonesia recorded imports of US\$21.28 billion, a growth of 14.35 percent yoy, he added.

The increase in imports was due to the expansion of the national manufacturing sector and the high domestic consumption rate, Kacaribu explained.

The better export and import performance led to Indonesia's trade balance recording a surplus of US\$440 million in May and US\$16.5 billion in the first five months of 2023, he noted.

This means that Indonesia experienced a surplus for 37 consecutive months, Kacaribu said.



He also listed the countries that contributed to the surplus in May — the United States, the Philippines, and India.

He said exports are predicted to continue to grow positively amid a decline in commodity prices, with India as a potential export destination considering its manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) has expanded continuously.

"The government has consistently conducted many efforts to improve national export performance, such as the diversification of export destination countries, natural resources downstreaming, and optimizing trade cooperation agreements with partnering countries," he added.

## Pakistan Ready to Reach Amicable Solution With IMF

ISLAMABAD (Dispatches) - Responding to the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) reservations over the fiscal year 2023-24 (FY24) budget tabled in the National Assembly last week, the government expressed willingness on Friday to show flexibility on the matter and said it remained engaged with the international money lender to reach an "amicable solution".

"We are not 'doctrinaire' about any element of the FY24 budget and are keenly engaged with the IMF to reach an amicable solution," the finance ministry said in a statement, adding the government was "fully committed" and "keen" to at least complete the ninth review of a \$6 billion IMF program, which has been stalled since October.

The IMF has made the decision of releasing at least some of the \$2.5 billion pending disbursement under the 2019 Extended Fund Facility (EFF) that will expire at the end of this month conditional on multiple factors, including the government satisfying it with regards to the budget for the coming fiscal year.

The IMF's resident representative for Pakistan, Esther Perez Ruiz, said in a late-night statement on Wednesday that the lender had raised several issues in the FY24 budget but was ready to work with Pakistan to refine the budget ahead of its passage.

Ruiz said a new tax amnesty scheme proposed by the government in the budget set a "damaging precedent" and ran against the program's conditionality, the FY24 budget "misses an opportunity to broaden the tax base in a more progressive way, and the long list of new tax expenditures reduces further the fairness of the tax system and undercuts the resources needed for greater support for vulnerable BISP (Benazir Income Support Program) recipients and development spending".

She further stated that measures to address the energy sector's liquidity pressures could be included alongside the broader budget strategy.

In its response to her statement, the finance ministry said today that tax exemptions announced in the budget were growth "triggers" in the real sectors of the economy.

"This is the sustainable path to provide employment and livelihood to the common citizen. In any case, the amount is fairly small," the ministry insisted.

As far as the broadening of the tax base was concerned, the ministry said, the Federal Board of Revenue had added over 1.16 million new taxpayers to its tax base in the last 11 months, an increase of 26.38 per cent.

"This is an ongoing exercise and will continue," the ministry said, highlighting that the 0.6pc advance adjustable withholding tax on cash withdrawals over Rs50,000 was another "big step" in this direction.

## Italy's Gov't Acts to Curb Chinese Influence on Pirelli



ROME (Dispatches) - Italy's government said on Friday it had taken steps to limit the influence of China's Sinochem on tyre maker Pirelli, including a mandatory qualified majority for strategic decisions made by the company's board.

Rome's decision comes after Sinochem, Pirelli's largest shareholder with a 37% stake, notified the Italian government in March of plans to update an existing shareholder pact with Camfin, the vehicle of Pirelli CEO Marco Tronchetti Provera.

Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's administration scrutinised the pact under "Golden Power" rules aimed at protecting assets deemed strategic for the country, at a time when relations between China and Western countries have entered a tenuous phase.

Sinochem was not immediately available for comment, while Pirelli declined to comment.

Sources had previously told Reuters that the government was concerned about Sinochem's growing influence on Pirelli, as the proposed pact would have allowed the Chinese group to appoint more board members and potentially choose Pirelli's future CEOs.

On Friday, Rome said it had imposed prescriptions aimed at shielding "the autonomy of Pirelli", including a requirement that "some" strategic decisions by its board of directors should require approval by at least 80% of directors.

The government, saying it had accepted some proposals made by Sinochem to address its concerns, also mentioned specific measures to protect cyber sensor technology that can be incorporated into Pirelli tyres.

"The relevance of such a technology can be identified in a variety of sectors: industrial automation, machine-to-machine communication, machine learning, advanced manufacturing, artificial intelligence, critical sensor and actuator technologies, Big Data and Analytics," the government said.

## Turkey's Central Bank to Hike Policy Rate to 20% in Policy U-Turn

ISTANBUL (Dispatches) - Turkey's central bank is expected to raise its policy rate by a huge 1,150 basis points next week, from 8.5% to 20%, a Reuters poll showed on Friday, in a policy U-turn after rate cuts under President Tayyip Erdogan led to a cost-of-living crisis.

The central bank slashed its policy rate from 19% in late-2021 to 8.5% as Erdogan, a self-described "enemy" of interest rates, implemented his unorthodox economic policy, prioritising growth, investment and exports.

But the rate cuts that came in the face of rising inflation led to a currency crisis, which in turn stoked inflation, sending it to a 24-year high of 85.5% last year. The central bank's reserves were depleted as it sought to stabilise the lira's exchange rate by countering soaring forex demand.

Facing economic turmoil as he was elected to his third term last month, Erdogan appointed Mehmet Simsek, highly regarded by markets, as finance minister, and Hafize Gaye Erkan, a former Wall Street banker, as central bank governor.

The appointments have heightened expectations that Turkey will abandon its unorthodox policies, which led the lira to shed more than 80% of its value since 2018.

The median forecast of 15 economists that participated in the Reuters poll for the one-week repo rate at next week's Monetary Policy Committee meeting was 20%, which would be the highest since mid-2019 and the first hike March 2021.

## South Korea's Economic Slowdown Continues

SEOUL (Dispatches) - South Korea's finance ministry said Friday that Asia's No. 4 economy has recently experienced weaker inflationary pressure, although it continued to suffer an economic slowdown.

"Recently, the South Korean economy saw its price hikes continue to lose steam. The economic slowdown lingered due to exports and the manufacturing sector," the Ministry of Economy and Finance said in a report.

The growth of South Korea's consumer

prices slowed for the fourth consecutive month in May from a year ago, rising 3.3 percent, in yet another signal that the country's inflation has passed its peak.

Exports fell for the eighth consecutive month in May, decreasing 15.2 percent on-year. The decline came as exports of semiconductors, the country's key export item, sank 36.2 percent on falling demand.

Economic slowdown continues on weak exports, inflation weakens: gov't - 1

The ministry mentioned an economic slowdown in the monthly assessment report, the Green Book, for the fifth consecutive month. "However, following the gradual recovery in domestic consumption, improved economic sentiment, and the strong job market indicates the downward risks have been eased to some extent," it added.

South Korea's job additions slowed for the second consecutive month in May following a brief rebound in March amid lingering economic uncertainties, but the employment rate nevertheless reached a fresh high.

In terms of external factors, the South Korean economy is grappling with uncertainties driven by external factors, particularly the tightening global monetary policies and the prolonged conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

On a positive note, the reopening of the Chinese economy and the growing optimism surrounding the global information technology industry are expected to provide support to the South Korean economy, it added.

Last week, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development lowered its 2023 growth outlook for South Korea to 1.5 percent, citing weak exports and sluggish private investment.

In May, the Bank of Korea also slashed its growth outlook for South Korea to 1.4 percent from the 1.6 percent expansion predicted three months earlier. The central bank held the benchmark interest rate steady for the third straight time last month at 3.5 percent on easing inflationary pressure amid rising concerns over an economic slowdown. The bank delivered seven consecutive hikes in borrowing costs from April 2022 to January 2023.

## Situation at Iran-Afghanistan Border Normal

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Calm has returned to the common border between Iran and Afghanistan after a recent brief armed clash, Iranian Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi said, noting that cross-border travels are taking place normally. Vahidi said that tranquility prevails along the common border with Afghanistan following a recent fatal clash in Iran’s southeastern province of Sistan and Balouchestan.

The Iranian minister noted that the Taliban have been acquainted with the issues going on along the border, and the situation at the frontier has become normal and cross-border travels are underway. The borders of Iran are secure although the terrorists are attempting to abuse those regions, the minister added, warning that the hostile plots will not go unanswered.



# France to Push Shipping Carbon Tax at Finance Summit

PARIS (Dispatches) - France said it would throw its weight behind an emissions tax on the heavily polluting shipping industry, adding momentum to a campaign long championed by Pacific island nations and environmental campaigners.

French President Emmanuel Macron will push the issue at an international conference next week to discuss revamping the global development aid system where Brazilian leader Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman as well as a host of African heads of state are expected.

The shipping industry transports around 90 percent of traded goods worldwide and accounts for around three percent of global carbon emissions, which are currently unregulated.

Two Pacific nations exposed to the risk of rising sea levels, the Marshall and Solomon islands, have been pushing over the last decade for a \$100-per-tonne tax on maritime industry emissions which would create incentives for operators to cut their pollution.

“We hope that we will give a real political boost” to the proposal at the summit, an aide to said on condition of anonymity on Friday.

Macron will host dozens of foreign leaders at the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact in Paris from June 22-23 and a pledge from participating countries such as China, Saudi Arabia or Brazil would represent a concrete achievement from the talks.

French officials believe it would add pressure on shipping groups and the International Maritime Organization (IMO), a United Nations agency, which is set to host a summit in two weeks’ time where the carbon tax is expected to be discussed.

The Marshall and Solomon Islands proposals would add tax of around \$300-400 to the price of a tonne of heavy oil used by container ships, raising approximately \$60-80 billion (55-73 billion euros) of tax receipts per year, according to the World Bank.

These funds could then be used by emerging countries to help finance their transition to a low-carbon economy and adapt to climate change.

The shipping industry, which operates across multiple jurisdictions and often in international waters, is “currently completely exempt from tax either on their sales or their emissions,” the French presidential aide said.

“We need new resources” to fight climate change and poverty as the “needs are so huge”, the official said.

The United Nations warned in November last year that carbon emissions from shipping were growing and it called on the vast industry to scrap old, polluting vessels and upgrade infrastructure to speed up its green transition.



While the world is becoming increasingly aware of the need to slash greenhouse gas emissions to avert catastrophic climate change, the global maritime fleet saw emissions rise by 4.7 percent between 2020 and 2021 alone, the UN’s trade and development agency UNCTAD.

It also raised concerns about the average age of ships sailing the seas, which currently stands at nearly 22 years, meaning they rely on older, more polluting engines.

The IMO has set a target for shipping to halve its annual emissions between 2008 and 2050, which is less ambitious than other industries targeting net-zero over the same period.

The European Commission says on its website that there has been “relatively slow progress in the IMO” to spur efficiency measures in the estimated 90,000 commercial vessels plying the world’s seas.

Some companies are investing in new technologies, however, including engines that can run on hydrogen or liquefied natural gas, or be powered by the age-old technology of sails.

The French push follows previous unsuccessful efforts by Britain to nudge the shipping industry into taking greater action. London urged the sector to adopt net-zero targets for 2050 at the time of the COP26 climate summit in 2021.

## What Should We Call “Erdogan”?

FROM PAGE 1

Erdogan should have understood that normalization of ties between Tehran and Riyadh would be a deadly blow to the existence of the Zionist regime which still continues occupation of Palestinians’ lands and their massacre. If Erdogan had just a little history knowledge, he would know that Iran has been and will be, too, the homeland of Azeris for generations through the centuries. From his inexperienced and transient remarks and leader of Baku nothing but dirty blur will remain in the minds of nations of Turkey, Azerbaijan and Iran and definitely in the future relations, it will be taken into consideration.



According to the released statistics, Iranians have invested tens of billions of dollars in Turkey and this has happened because of negligence of governments in the Islamic Revolution and with a small reaction by Iran’s Majlis, it can find the opposite direction. Recent earthquake in Turkey seems to be forgotten as Erdogan has unnoticed Iran’s humanitarian aids. This way, we do not know what to call Erdogan. Rebel? Forgetful? Fame Seeker? Or colleague of Netanyahu? That each one of those names can interpret and express some parts of Erdogan’s behavior.

The leaders of the Islamic Republic of Iran seriously do not seek any tension in the West Asia and all evidences show that when in this condition the U.S. has accepted the Islamic Republic of Iran’s demands and raised the issue of releasing the frozen funds of Iran and seeking mending ties out of the JCPOA and uses the rhetoric of necessity of diplomacy, it has, undoubtedly taken into consideration the regional power of the Islamic Republic’s growing diplomacy in the region and moving in the opposite direction of the U.S. will be a deadly poison for Erdogan.

## Enemies Irked by...

FROM PAGE 1

The move has sparked widespread condemnations from the Palestinians as well as nations and human rights advocates across the globe, especially within the Muslim world.

Pointing to the participation of Muslims from across the world in the annual Hajj pilgrimage, the Iranian president said it is necessary, based on Islamic beliefs, to promote good neighborliness between Tehran and Riyadh.

He said Muslim nations are suffering from a host of problems in the region. “It is possible to overcome problems through cooperation and dialogue among regional countries and there is no need for foreign intervention to that end.”

Raisi said Iran has gained sophisticated experience in fighting terrorism and destroying Takfiri terrorists, which can be used as an axis of cooperation between Tehran and Riyadh.

The Saudi foreign minister, for his part, said Tehran and Riyadh have entered a golden phase in relations. He said cooperation with Iran would prepare the ground for both sides and the region to make use of the current opportunities.

Farhan said the Saudi King has ordered the formation of various working groups to promote relations with Iran to a strategic level. Enhancement of economic, development and cultural cooperation is on the agenda of Tehran and Riyadh, he said.

The Saudi minister said certain countries in the world do not favor promotion of peace and progress in the region. However, the top Saudi diplomat said, expanded interaction between Iran and Saudi Arabia and among all Muslim nations would guarantee that no foreign country interfere in the region.

## Seas...

FROM PAGE 1

The minister further attached importance to the creative and innovative use of defense developments as well as the building of new products using current capacities.

A powerful maritime presence, he noted, is vital for the country’s economy, trade, industry and defense.

Iran’s Navy has in recent years achieved self-sufficiency in manufacturing surface and sub-surface vessels.

It has also increased its presence in international waters to protect naval routes and provide security for merchant vessels and tankers. The Navy has managed to foil several attacks on both Iranian and foreign tankers during its missions in international waters.

Recently, the Iranian Navy’s 86th flotilla of warships, comprising indigenous Dena destroyer and Makran forward base ship, successfully completed a round-the-world voyage after sailing 63,000 kilometers of sea routes over a period of eight months.

## Iran, Pakistan Defense Officials Discuss Cooperation to Fight Terrorism



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iranian Deputy Defense Minister and Pakistani Defense Secretary discussed cooperation between the two countries to contain “terror” groups.

In a meeting with the visiting Defense Secretary of Pakistan Hamood uz Zaman Khan in Tehran, Iranian Deputy Minister of Defense for Armed Forces Logistics Brigadier-General Seyyed Mahdi Farahi said: “Cooperation between Iran and Pakistan would (seriously) constrain the field of operations for takfiri and terrorist groups.”

Farahi noted that improving defense cooperation with Islamabad could strengthen trust and act as a spur to combat “terrorist” organisations like the Islamic State (IS/ISIS) and “separatist groups.”

The Iranian general criticized the “hegemonic” attitude of the West and the US for driving some of these regional divisions, saying, “the roots of crises can be traced back to the excessive ambitions and expansionist policies of the West and the US.”

Referring to allegations of Tehran’s involvement in arming Russia against Ukraine, Farahi said, “Iran has consistently opposed war, killings, and infrastructure destruction anywhere in the world.”

Farahi highlighted the potential for “direct and indirect utilization of defense capacities in enhancing economic collaboration”, noting the special value of setting up cross-border trade between the two countries.

In turn, the Pakistani official said that in addition to military cooperation, the defense ministries of the two countries could use their potential to expand bilateral economic ties.

The two countries share 904-kilometer-long border. Iran’s south-eastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan, which has borders with Pakistan and Afghanistan, is home to some Sunni extremist groups that are opposed to the Islamic Republic as a Shia theocracy. The province is also an entry point for smuggled drugs and arms.

## Forest Fire Risks Mount in Drought-Hit Nordic Nations

LYNGE (Dispatches) - “I need water”, pleads farmer Lars Jonsson, casting a desperate eye over a parched field in eastern Denmark where the only shade is that cast by wind turbines.

Across the northern hemisphere, the start of summer has been marked by extreme weather conditions, from megafires in Canada to drought in Spain.

Even Northern Europe, typically known for its mild climate, has experienced an unseasonably dry spring and early summer, with experts warning of a high risk of forest fires like those that ravaged central Sweden in 2018.

“I’m very concerned about the weather because it’s very, very dry now,” Jonsson says.

“I check my phone for the weather forecast too many times a day in the hope of maybe a little rain in the next week,” he says, smartphone in hand.

There’s been little rain this spring and none at all since May 23, and now his grain crops are 25 percent shorter than normal.

According to European monitoring service Copernicus, 90 percent of Denmark was affected by drought at the end of May.

“Look, the roots are almost dried out,” 62-year-old Jonsson says as he pulls up a plant.

## Taliban Says Ready to Solve Iran Concerns Over Water Rights

TEHRAN (MNA) – Taliban’s acting Prime Minister Mawlawi Abdul Kabir says that the group will respond to Iran’s concerns over the Helmand River water rights.

In a meeting with the head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), Abdul Kabir called for the resumption of the activities of the international organizations in Afghanistan.

Referring to Iran’s water right from the Helmand River, the Taliban official stated that they are negotiating with the Iranian side over the issue.

He said that Afghanistan does not claim more than its legitimate right, and if Iran has concerns in this regard, the Taliban can resolve the concerns through dialogue and understanding.

Iranian Ambassador to Kabul Hassan Kazemi Qomi recently said that the Taliban have agreed to the visit of

Iranian experts to the Kajakai Dam.

Referring to Iran’s water rights from the Hirmand River (also known as Helmand), the Iranian interior minister recently cited, “If there is water in the dams, the Taliban side must provide Iran’s share, and if there is not, this issue must be clarified for us. Because our experts believe that there is water in these dams, but the Taliban side says that there is no water.”

A joint committee is set to be formed to visit the dams and resolve the issue, according to Vahidi.

Iran’s demands for this water right are based on the treaty reached in 1973 and detailed negotiations have been conducted at different levels in this regard. Iranian officials have always emphasized the correct implementation of the 1973 Hirmand River Treaty between Iran and Afghanistan.

## Iran Aims to Boost Ties With Burkina Faso

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran’s deputy foreign minister for political affairs says Tehran seeks to develop relations with Burkina Faso, as the West African country announces plans to open its embassy in Tehran.

Ali Bagheri Kani made the remarks in a meeting with Issa Boro, the Burkinabe Foreign Ministry’s secretary general, in Tehran on Sunday.

“Iran has put on its agenda the program of expanding ties with Burkina Faso,” he said.

The Burkinabe official, for his part, said his country has the political will to foster political, economic and cultural relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is rich in historic civilization and culture.

Boro also announced his country’s decision to set up an embassy in Tehran.

Bagheri Kani welcomed the embassy plan, saying the Joint Commission for Comprehensive Cooperation is a suitable mechanism for pursuing issues of mutual interest. Heading a delegation, Boro has traveled to Tehran in order to exchange views with Iranian officials on ways to enhance Iran-Burkina Faso cooperation.

## Iran Full Membership of...

FROM PAGE 1

Earlier, the Indian Foreign Ministry announced that a meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State would take place online on July 4. In addition to the SCO’s eight member states, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia have been invited to the event as observer states.

Amirabdollahian had said that the country’s full membership in the SCO would be finalized in July during the upcoming summit of the association. The SCO was founded by China, Russia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan at a summit held in Shanghai in 2001.

China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, India, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan are its current full members. Iran, Afghanistan, Belarus, and Mongolia are observer states.

Iran first applied for membership in the alliance 15 years ago. The approval of Iran’s candidacy came at a summit in the Tajik capital of Dushanbe in September 2021.

The organization accounts for 40 percent of the world’s population and 28 percent of the global gross domestic product (GDP).

**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:** Omid Nashr-o Chap  
**Distributed by:**  
Cities of Iran Cultural and  
Artistic Institute  
**Managing Director:** Fereydoon Taherpour Asl

## Fowler Takes One-Shot Lead in U.S. Open

LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - Rickie Fowler has come far from golf's wilderness to the U.S. Open lead, but the former world number four headed into next round knowing he had a long way to go yet to claim a first major title that once seemed assured.

Fowler, who missed the last two US Opens as he fell to as low as 185th in the world last year, launched his return to the tournament with a breathtaking, record-setting eight-under par 62 on Thursday at Los Angeles Country Club.

## Teams Withdraw From Tour of Switzerland

GENEVA (Dispatches) - Two entire teams as well as several individual cyclists withdrew from the Tour of Switzerland following the death of Swiss rider Gino Maeder. Maeder, who rode for Team Bahrain Victorious, fell into a ravine in the downhill finale of Thursday's fifth stage. He died from his injuries on Friday. He was 26. Maeder's team immediately pulled out and they were joined on Saturday by Swiss outfit Tudor and Belgian rivals Intermarche prior to the seventh stage.

## Portugal Win in Euro 2024 Qualifying as Scotland Stun Norway

PARIS (Dispatches) - Bruno Fernandes scored twice as Portugal won in Euro 2024 qualifying on Saturday after Scotland produced a stunning late comeback to beat Erling Haaland's Norway in Oslo.

Portugal defeated Bosnia and Herzegovina 3-0 in Lisbon to make it three wins out of three in Group J, with Manchester City star Bernardo Silva opening the scoring a minute before half-time.

Fernandes headed in the second from a Ruben Neves cross in the 77th minute and scored his second, and Portugal's third, in added time.

Cristiano Ronaldo wore the captain's armband and played all 90 minutes as the 38-year-old men's international appearance record-holder won his 199th cap.

However, the forward now playing for Al Nassr in Saudi Arabia did not manage to add to his record 122 international goals -- he found the net with a header midway through the first half only to be denied by an offside flag.

Portugal, who visit Iceland on Tuesday, are top of Group J with nine points out of a possible nine having scored 13 goals and conceded none.

They are two points clear of Slovakia, who beat Iceland 2-1 in Reykjavik with Tomas Suslov unwittingly scoring the winner 20 minutes from time after an Alfred Finnbogason penalty for the hosts cancelled out Juraj Kucka's opener.

Luxembourg beat Liechtenstein 2-0 in the same six-team group, from which the top two sides qualify for the finals in Germany.

Scotland have three wins out of three in Group A after following a famous victory over Spain in March by coming from behind late on to beat Norway 2-1 on Saturday.

It looked as if Norway would get their first win of the campaign after Erling Haaland was fouled in the box on the hour mark by Ryan Porteous and converted the resulting penalty.

It was Haaland's 22 goal in 24 games for Norway, and he was taken off six minutes from time by coach Stale Solbakken with the job seemingly done. But then Scotland equalised in the 87th minute when Leo Ostigard failed to deal with a John McGinn pass, allowing Lyndon Dykes to stab home.



And Scotland were not finished as they snatched the winner with a minute left, McGinn and Dykes combining to set up Norwich City's Kenny McLean to slot in, leaving Norway with just one point from three outings.

Scotland, who went 23 years without appearing at any major tournament before going to Euro 2020, are now in a fantastic position on top of Group A, five points clear of Georgia and six ahead of Nations League finalists Spain.

They have played a game more than both of those sides, however, and welcome Georgia to Glasgow on Tuesday.

"Sometimes when it's your moment you just have to ride the wave. The boys believe in themselves and kept going," said Scotland boss Steve Clarke.

Georgia, coached by ex-France international Willy Sagnol, won 2-1 in Cyprus with Zuriko Davitashvili scoring the decisive goal late on.

That was after Georges Mikautadze's opener was cancelled out by a penalty from Ioannis Pittas for Cyprus.

Belgium were held to a 1-1 draw by Austria in Brussels, with captain Romelu Lukaku turning and firing in from the edge of the box just after the hour mark for the hosts.

They had been trailing after Orel Mangala deflected a shot past goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois and into his own net.

"After the first goal we saw the heads go down, which is something we need to learn from because this team is young," said Belgium coach Domenico Tedesco. "But in the end, I honestly saw good things as well."

## Tiafoe Reaches First Grass Court Final In Stuttgart

STUTTGART (Dispatches) - Frances Tiafoe reached his first grass court final after seeing off Hungarian qualifier Marton Fucsovics in straight sets.

The 12th-ranked American came through 6-3, 7-6 (13/11) and will face Germany's Jan-Lennard Struff for the title in what will be his seventh tour final.

"I have played some solid tennis. It is one of my favourites surfaces. It is good to get out here and get some matches," said Tiafoe who saved six set points in a marathon second set tie-break.

Third-seeded Tiafoe is chasing his third tour-level title and second of the season this week, having triumphed on clay in Houston in April.

Struff saw off Polish fourth seed Hubert Hurkacz 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 to close in on a first ever title.

The 33-year-old cracked 35 winners past Hurkacz in his 89-minute victory.

"I am very happy," Struff said. "Hubi is an incredible grass-court player, so I knew I had to play a very good match. After starting off well I found a way and I am very happy with the win."

## Beckham's Son Romeo Joins Brentford's 'B Team'

LONDON (Dispatches) - David Beckham's son Romeo has joined Brentford's 'B team' after impressing in a loan spell with the Premier League club.

Romeo Beckham agreed a one-year contract to play for Brentford's second-string side after leaving MLS club Inter Miami.

The 20-year-old, whose father is co-owner of Inter Miami, spent the second half of last season on loan with Brentford B.

Beckham helped them lift the Premier League Cup last season, featuring 15 times, while also scoring against National League side Wealdstone in the Middlesex Senior Cup.

Brentford B head coach Neil MacFarlane hopes the youngster can continue his development in west London.

"We added Romeo to our squad in January and he's been fantastic for the group," he said.

"He's had a terrific end to the season in terms of his recent match against Manchester City where he showed what he's learned during his loan with us.

"We've continued to develop him in and out of possession and we look forward to him coming back in good spirits to continue working with him next season."

David Beckham played for Manchester United, Real Madrid, LA Galaxy, AC Milan, Paris Saint-Germain and England in an iconic career before retiring in 2013.

Beckham's Inter Miami recently announced the signing of Lionel Messi after the Argentina legend left Paris Saint-Germain.

## Shaheen Back For Pakistan

KARACHI (Dispatches) - Lanky pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi was named in Pakistan's 16-man squad to play two Tests in Sri Lanka next month -- his first outing in the long form of the game in a year.

The 23-year-old injured a knee in Sri Lanka last July and missed Pakistan's home Test series against Australia, England and New Zealand.

## Scolari Comes out of Retirement to Coach Atletico Mineiro



Scolari took Atletico to the Copa Libertadores final last year during a six-month spell in charge and announced his retirement in November, continuing at the club as a technical director.

LONDON (Dispatches) - World Cup-winning coach Luiz Felipe Scolari has agreed to another stint in the dugout, coming out of retirement to take over at Brazilian Serie A club Atletico Mineiro until December 2024.

The 74-year-old left his job as technical director at Athletico Paranaense to sign on at the Belo Horizonte-based club, where he succeeds Argentine coach Eduardo Coudet.

It was more than double Bangladesh's previous record win -- by 226 runs over Zimbabwe at Chittagong in 2005.

## Taskin Shines In Bangladesh's Record Test Win

DHAKA (Dispatches) - Bangladesh crushed Afghanistan by 546 runs to secure the biggest Test victory margin by runs in nearly 90 years, with Taskin Ahmed grabbing a career-best 4-37.

The match ended in the extended opening session of the fourth day in Dhaka after a Taskin bouncer hit Zahir Khan, forcing the final batsman to retire hurt.

The visitors barely made a dent in the mammoth target of 662, giving the hosts the biggest Test win by runs since Australia's 562-run victory over England in 1934.

"This win is obviously very satisfying," skipper Liton Das told reporters.

"The batsmen should be given some credit because the wicket was not that easy," he added. "You cannot ask for more after winning by this kind of margin."

It was more than double Bangladesh's previous record win -- by 226 runs over Zimbabwe at Chittagong in 2005.

The Bangladesh triumph was all but guaranteed after they declared their second innings at 425-4 in Friday's final session.

Afghanistan stumbled quickly, losing Ibrahim Zadran for a duck off the first ball of the innings and resuming on Saturday at a precarious 45-2.

The tourists showed little improvement on the fourth day and lost wickets at regular intervals, with Taskin and Shoriful Islam leading the Bangladesh attack.

Afghanistan coach Jonathan Trott lamented a "very disappointing" defeat to mark his side's first Test in more than two years.

"There were some slight moments of good cricket from us, but not enough and not consistent enough," he said.

Trott said the tourists were "lacking in all three disciplines" and needed to improve their mentality. "It's always good to have a Test match and play well, but not when you perform like that," he added.



## Crisis Deepens for Euro 2024 Hosts Germany With 1-0 Loss to Poland

WARSAW (Dispatches) - Euro 2024 hosts Germany stumbled to a 1-0 loss against Poland in their international friendly to continue their disappointing run less than a year before they host the continental tournament.

Jakub Kiwior's bouncing header snatched only the second victory for the hosts over the Germans in 90 years. Germany have now won only three of their last 10 international matches.

Four-time world champions Germany, who play Colombia next week in their last international before the summer break, now have less than a year to build a battle-worthy team for their home Euros.

Following their disappointing first round World Cup exit in Qatar last year, they have so far failed to show clear signs of recovery even though their second half performance on Friday was improved from their opening 45 minutes.

They have managed just one win -- over Peru -- in their four matches since the World Cup. "It is still a long way and there is enough time," said Germany coach Hansi Flick. "I am very confident in relation to the path we have to take."

"We will have a functioning team by next June. It is a process we will go together. The team is ready to do it.

"We are in a phase which is not that easy. We will come out of it. We can build on our second half performance even though the result is, of course, not enough for us."

The Germans, who needed two late goals to rescue a 3-3 draw against Ukraine on Monday, were almost caught out when Jakub Blaszczykowski chased down a deep cross but Malick Thiaw's well-timed tackle denied the 37-year-old at the edge of the box.

The hosts kept breaking through the shaky German backline with Jakub Kaminski's shot from a tight angle saved by keeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen.

