

**Iranian Foreign Ministry Summoned Sweden's Charge d'Affaires in Protest at Burning of the Holy Qur'an and the Silence and Passive of the Swedish Officials at Such Unacceptable Behavior**

# IRAN NEWS

**President Ebrahim Raeisi Inaugurated a Major Drinking Water Project During His Provincial Tour In Kerman Province on a Visit Where He Hailed Capabilities and Potentials of the Province**

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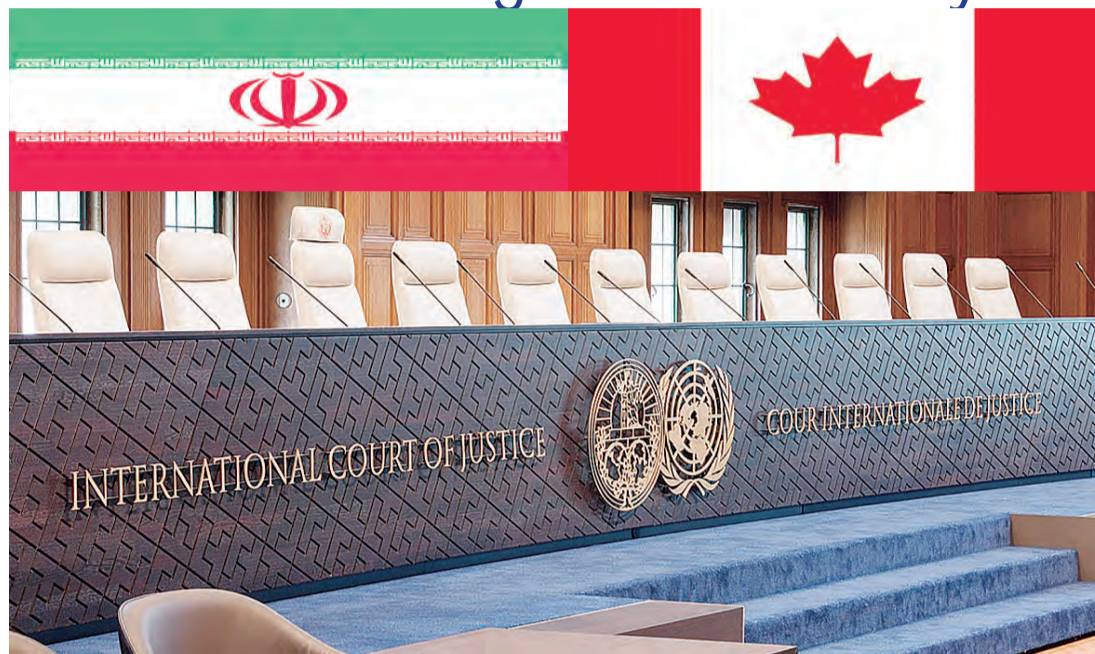
TEHRAN (IRNA) - The trade exchange between Iran and the European Union has been about €1.5 billion in the first four months of 2023, according to data released by the European Union's statistics office Eurostat.

According to Eurostat cited by IRNA on Wednesday, the worth of total trade exchange between Iran and 27 members of the EU has been €1.4 billion in the mentioned period.

The figures showed that the amount of trade exchange between the two sides has experienced 11% decrease while being compared with the number in the previous year.

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**Iran Takes Legal Action Against Canada For Breaching State Immunity**



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran has launched legal proceedings at the UN's top court against Canada for breaching Tehran's state immunity by designating the country a sponsor of terrorism under "false and wrongful" allegations.

A statement by the Iranian government's website said Tehran wants the the International Court of Justice to

compel Canada to stop violating the Iranian government's immunities as a sovereign state in Canadian courts and avoid repeating such breaches of international law in the future.

Iran's filing to the court also demands compensation from Canada.

It said the violations began in 2012, when Ottawa listed Iran as a terror sponsor under "false and wrongful" allegations and then seized property and assets belonging to the Iranian government.

The statement said Canada has continued this "wrong process" in spite of repeated protests by Iran.

"Iran, through this move, once again showed [its adherence] to its principled position on the peaceful settlement of differences and commitment to the rule of law regarding relations between countries," the statement said, expressing hope that Canada will change its "political approach" and stop violating its obligations.

Tehran said Canada had breached international law by court rulings ordering Iranian assets to be handed over to victims of various attacks that Canada blames on groups backed by Iran.

The Hague-based court confirmed in a statement that Iran had launched legal proceedings against Canada on Tuesday.

Iran said in its filing to the court that "Canada has adopted and implemented a series of legislative, executive, and judicial measures against Iran and its property [since 2012] in breach of its international obligations," said the statement.

"Iran respectfully requests the Court to adjudge and declare that by failing to respect the immunities of Iran and its property, Canada has violated its international obligations toward Iran," it added.

It also said that Iran demanded compensation from Canada for the "violation of its international obligations", and asked the ICJ to tell Ottawa to overrule any judgments against Tehran in Canadian courts.

Tehran has also filed a case against Washington over using billions of dollars in assets frozen to compensate victims of alleged terror attacks.

In March, ICJ judges ruled Washington had illegally allowed courts to freeze assets of some Iranian companies and ordered Washington to pay compensation, but left the amount to be determined later.

The statement by the Iranian government also rejected Canada's frequent accusations that Iran supports terrorism and violates human rights.

The statement said Canada has systematically violated human rights, supported the "dominating and interventionist" foreign policies of the US, and has acted as an accomplice in the Israeli regime's inhumane crimes in Palestine and southwest Asia.

"It shouldn't be forgotten that the Canadian government has in its anti-human rights record the genocide of hundreds of native indigenous children at compulsory schools and the mass burial of these innocent children," it said, referring to recent discoveries of hundreds of graves of indigenous children at former government-run compulsory boarding schools in Canada.

Canada broke off diplomatic ties with Iran and closed its Tehran embassy in a surprise move in 2012, citing various reasons including Iran's support for Syria, its nuclear work and alleged threats to the Israeli regime.

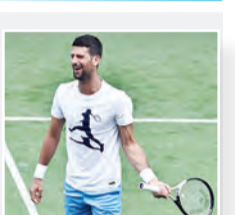
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**ViewPoint**  
 By: Hamid Reza Naghashian

**Putin's Life Jacket Inflated**

Sometimes I think to myself how Russia after the collapse of USSR once again could remain a superpower.

When a big crack happened in the body of the Soviet Union which led to the dissolution of the then second superpower of the world, nobody thought that this country once again could find the role of a superpower. Perhaps we can analyze it this way that when on September 8, 1991 and in a secret meeting between President of Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic Boris Yeltsin, President of Republic of Belarus of Soviet Union Stanislav Shovsekovic and President of Republic of Ukraine of Soviet Union Leonid Kravchuk which took place in the very luxurious residence of Belarus which had been built for high-ranking officials meeting, they signed a treaty that accordingly aligned independent countries in line with a united political ideology emerged. It may be related to this fact that in the late 1980s, Soviet Union President Mikhail Gorbachev undermined the importance of Socialist Federative Republic of Russia of Soviet Union which was considered as the second powerful pillar of the rival for the Soviet Union. Some strong Russian nationalist reactions were raised by some Russians with stating this claim that Russia for long time by giving subsidies of crude oil to the republics of the Soviet Union had been making them poorer. For example, since the demands for domestic institutes of Russia were increasing, in fact quality of Republic of Russia and the Soviet Union were leading to the decrease in development.

Concurrent with the flare of extremist nationalism in the late decade of 1980, the tension between those who keep integrated the union under the authority of Russia and the groups who wanted to create a powerful Russia had been intensified and day in day this tension was showing itself in the power struggle between Gorbachev and Yeltsin.

Yeltsin with the exit of Gorbachev from the policies of the Soviet Union in 1987 as a political party leader without any background or opposite relations needed a political party policy for confronting Gorbachev. He proved it through his presence both as a nationalist Russian and as a committed democrat and during the election was elected as the new head of Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet in May 1990 and he actually became the first elected President of Russia.

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**Top General Warns MKO**

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's top general says the fate of the Mujahedin-e-Khalq Organization (MKO) terrorist group should be a salutary lesson to those opposition groups that betrayed the Iranian nation and now revel in the support of the enemies.

Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri made the remarks in a message on Tuesday on the occasion of the 42nd anniversary of a deadly attack by the MKO terrorists which killed scores of Iranian officials, including then-Chief Justice Ayatollah Mohammad Beheshti.

He said the terrorist attack can serve as a symbol of the oppression brutally imposed on the Iranian people, whose only crime was their demand for independence and rejection of any foreign domination. At this time, however, no European country is willing to provide shelter to the MKO terrorists, Baqeri added.

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**Shining of CEO of Shiraz Petrochemical Company in Ceremony for Honoring Top 100 Brands of 1402**

**Awards of the Top 100 Brands of the Year 1402 Go to Eng. Heydarnia, CEO of Shiraz Petrochemical Company**



According to Shiraz Petrochemical Public Relations and International Affairs report, the biggest gathering of Iran's mining and trade industry managers under the title of Honoring Top 100 Brands of the Year was held on June 24 at the Conference Hall of IRIB with the presence and support of ministries, organizations and research institutions and using the knowledge and experience of professors and the prominent consultants of the country as well as the presence of the senior managers of companies and organizations.

In this event beside presenting and honoring the top brands of the year based on reviewing process of annual performance of them in five indications of creativity and innovation, customer-orientation, consumer popularity, quality and social responsibility with providing useful information and statistics regarding the economic enterprises of the country and providing transparent climate in business and the amount of impacts of companies on the national economy.

According to this report, Engineer Heydarnia, the respected CEO of Shiraz Petrochemicals Company, succeeded in receiving the market leadership award statue, the golden statue of the top company in the responsibility category, the branding commendation plaque for the top manager and the chosen Iranian management star, and the award of meritocracy from this event. This conference and ceremony was held coinciding with the National Day of Industry, Mine and Trade, aimed at clarifying the business environment and creating a suitable platform to know the new indicators of branding and its effects in increasing sales, a clear picture of the position of economic enterprises and various industrial groups, expanding the competition between the economic enterprises of the country, more scientific Creating a decision-making space for managers and also the possibility of direct interaction between senior managers of successful groups to benefit from common economic and credit benefits.



## Iran Ready for Dialogue With Europe

LONDON (IRNA) - Iranian Ambassador to Austria Abbas Bagherpour Ardakani says Iran is ready to engage in dialogue with Europe.

The ambassador made the remarks in a meeting hosted by the Vienna-based International Institute For Peace (IIP) on Wednesday. The meeting was also attended by a number of Austrian university professors, researchers and politicians.

Speaking at the meeting, the Iranian ambassador described Tehran's stands towards the latest regional and international developments.

## Iran Warns Belgium Of Malicious Bid To Destroy Ties



Belgian national Olivier Vandecasteele who had served more than a year of his prison sentence for security violations.

Pascal Smet, the secretary of state for European and international relations for the city council of Brussels, defended the invitation, explaining that the mayor of Tehran visited the city on a visa issued by the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"The Brussels Urban Summit is a major international conference" Smet said, adding "Tehran is a member of this global network and was invited by Metropolis in this capacity. Brussels is a diplomatic capital."

Meanwhile, the Belgian foreign ministry confirmed that the Belgian embassy in Iran had issued a visa for Zakani at the insistence of the Brussels municipality.

Smet later resigned under pressure, but he insisted that he "didn't commit a personal error."

**TEHRAN (PressTV) - An informed source in the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs says the recent exchange of Belgian and Iranian detainees was "a sign of successful diplomacy" between Tehran and Brussels, warning of "malicious" efforts to destroy relations between the two countries.**

Speaking to Press TV on Thursday, the source touched on "ridiculous claims published in certain sections of the Belgian media", saying they are being instigated by "malicious known currents to destroy relations between Iran and Belgium".

"We hope that Belgian authorities will not fall into the trap of such false scenarios," the source said.

A visit by Tehran's mayor Alireza Zakani to Brussels at the invitation of Belgian authorities was met with a cacophony of acerbic comments from some politicians and media in the country.

They pounced on the visit to question its timing which came after Iran released

## Iran Attaches Importance to Expand Ties With African States

TEHRAN (MNA) - The African continent is the priority of the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Spokesman for Iran Parliament National Security and Foreign Policy Commission said.

Abolfazl Amouei made the remarks in a meeting with Ivory Coast Ambassador Tamakolo Ouattara.

Iran attaches great importance to the development of relations with the African continent, especially the Ivory Coast in the political-economic and commercial fields, Amouei said.

Commercial and economic cooperation is one of the issues that should be seriously considered, he said.

The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Ivory Coast enjoy many potential capacities that can be used as a platform for comprehensively increasing cooperation, he noted.

Ouattara also expressed his country's interest in expanding relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and he hoped that these relations will develop further in all fields.

## Iran Will Never Compromise On Its Security

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Intelligence Minister Esmail Khatib has extended his gratitude to the government of Albania for taking "independent actions" against the anti-Iran Mujahedin-e Khalq (MKO) terrorist organization.

"Security is not a matter that Iran would make a deal over, or compromise on," Khatib said on Wednesday.

The intelligence minister issued a warning to all countries that harbor the "dream" of disrupting Iran's security, especially those that played a role in the recent riots in the country.

"Countries that support terrorists must be aware that the security of Iran and the preservation of peace and calm for its people are the top priorities for the Islamic Republic," he stated.

The comments came a week after MKO terrorists clashed with Albanian police during a court-ordered search of their camp in the city of Manez. At least two people were killed and 36 others wounded in the clashes, a security source told IRNA.

Albania's Special Court against Crime and Corruption had authorized the search due to concerns that the MKO had been involved in terror and cyber attacks.

## FM Urges Muslim Nations to Focus on Foiling Enemies' Disintegration Plots



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's foreign minister has called on the Islamic world to unite against "malicious" plots orchestrated by enemies and the Zionist lobby to destabilize their countries.

Hossein Amirabdollahian delivered this message during a meeting with ambassadors, charges d'affaires, and heads of diplomatic missions from Islamic countries in Tehran on Thursday, on the occasion of Eid al-Adha (Feast of Sacrifice).

He stressed that the enemies of the Muslim Ummah have elaborate schemes to divide Muslim nations.

"Our collective efforts must be directed towards thwarting the schemes of enemies of Islam and the Zionist lobby, which seek to divide Muslim nations, including Sudan," he stated, highlighting their failure to achieve their objectives in previous conflicts such as those in Afghanistan, Syria, and Iraq.

Amirabdollahian reiterated that the issue of Palestine remains the primary concern and top priority for the Muslim world.

Referring to a recent meeting with his Saudi counterpart Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, Iran's top diplomat said the two sides agreed that the Muslim world should remain vigilant in the face of the apartheid Israeli regime's actions against Palestinians.

Iran and Saudi Arabia also agreed to keep supporting the oppressed people of Palestine "with a stronger and more expressive voice," he added.

Also in his remarks, Amirabdollahian expressed his satisfaction with the restoration of Iran's ties with Saudi Arabia through diplomacy and dialogue.

He also stressed that the Islamic Republic welcomes the expansion and normalization of its relations with other regional and Muslim countries, including Egypt and Morocco.

"In the path of political independence, we will allow neither the West, nor the East, to dominate our country, the sovereignty of the Islamic Republic, and the people of Iran. In line with our interests, however, ... we welcome the expansion of ties with both the East and the West," Amirabdollahian asserted.

"I emphasize that the Islamic world, the region and the neighbors are considered an important foreign policy priority of our government, in addition to strong contacts with all parts of the world."

## Iran Police Chief Signs MoU With Russia

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's police chief Brigadier General Ahmad Reza Radan has signed a memorandum of understanding with Russia's National Guard on expansion of military and security relations between Tehran and Moscow.

Radan signed the agreement with Russia's National Guard chief Viktor Zolotov on the second day of his visit to Moscow.

According to Iran's official news agency (IRNA), "the development and expansion of security and law enforcement cooperation, [and] the exchange of experience to deal with the factors that create insecurity are among of the axes of this memorandum."

Radan also made a visit to the National Guard Memorial Museum in Moscow after signing the cooperation memorandum.

Iran's police chief, accompanied by a delegation, traveled to Russia on Tuesday to enhance security cooperation between the law enforcement agencies of the two countries.



Speaking to reporters upon arrival at Moscow's Vnukovo International Airport, Iran's police chief described the visit as a "very good beginning" of closer cooperation between Iran and Russia.

Also on Wednesday, Radan met with the secretary of the Security Council of Russia, Nikolai Patrushev, to discuss bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

Radan and Patrushev exchanged views on interaction between the special services and law enforcement agencies of Iran and Russia, and signed a memorandum to jointly combat drug trafficking, organized crime and smuggling.

Russian media reports said the police chiefs of the two countries would also discuss the fight against terrorist organizations in Eurasia and could exchange experience on countering attempts by Western intelligence agencies to destabilize the situations in Iran and Russia, and organize riots.

## UN Members Urged to Share Iran's Refugee Costs

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran's interior minister has called on the United Nations member states to start sharing the refugee costs that the Islamic Republic has been left to handle at the height of the Western sanctions targeting Tehran.

Ahmad Vahidi made the remarks on the occasion of World Refugee Day, saying Iran was hosting around five million refugees amid the coercive economic measures.

"Today, there are displaced people and refugees hailing from tens of countries [who have sought refuge in Iran]. Of course, the prevailing number [among these] belongs to our dear [brothers and sisters] from Afghanistan," he said.

Vahidi noted that Iran has, especially since the 1979 victory of its Islamic Revolution, been accepting the oppressed people from various parts of the world with open arms on "humanitarian" grounds.

However, the country does not receive due credit and support for its hosting these externally displaced people, the minister said, and addressed the representatives of various countries in the UN, asserting, "You should support us concerning the costs that Iran has to shoulder in this regard."

Elsewhere in his remarks, Vahidi reminded that many of those who have been displaced across the world, have been uprooted from their homelands as a result of Western countries' policies, Vahidi said. He cited the case of Palestinians -- millions of whom have lost their homes as a result of the West's political and military support for Israel.

The minister also mentioned Syria, noting that millions have been similarly uprooted across the Arab country by the Daesh Takfiri terrorist group, which, by the United States' own admission, had been created by Washington itself.

Vahidi went on to fault European governments' irresponsible approach toward many of the refugees, who would try to reach the continent via the Mediterranean. He noted how this attitude recently caused hundreds of refugees to drown in the waters.

Despite such sheer difference between Iran's attitude towards the refugees and that of the West, the Western states lay claim to upholding the human rights, while the Islamic Republic is accused of violating such rights, the minister concluded.

## Russian Naval Corvette Docks at Iran's Anzali Port

TEHRAN (PressTV) - A Russian guided-missile corvette has docked at Iran's northern Caspian Sea port of Anzali as part of an agreement aimed at expanding bilateral military ties.

The vessel, named Makhachkala, entered Iranian waters on Tuesday and docked at the port, home to the Iranian Navy's Northern Fleet.

The aim of this trip is to implement the articles of the Joint Commission for Military Cooperation between the Islamic Republic and Russia per the negotiations held between the naval forces of the two countries, according to a statement released by the Iranian Army's public relations office. The statement further noted that promoting bilateral maritime relations, developing maritime diplomacy and conducting port visits are also among the objectives of the current naval engagement.

Meeting with the Commander of the Northern Fleet, visiting the city of Bandar-e Anzali and its free zone, holding sports competitions and Passex joint naval drills are among the planned engagements for the visiting Russian vessel.

The development follows remarks last week by Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Overchuk declaring that Iran and the Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) are expected to sign a free trade zone agreement by the end of the year.

## Iran to Join Lebanon Five-Way Committee

TEHRAN (MNA) - After the five-way committee's unsuccessful attempts to solve the problem of selecting a president for Lebanon, Paris has reportedly asked Riyadh to invite Tehran to join the committee given the importance of Iran's role.

Al Bina newspaper reported that France has proposed Saudi Arabia add Tehran to the five-way committee considering the importance of Iran's role in the region and in the case of Lebanon.

According to informed sources, the five-way committee (France, Saudi Arabia, the United States, Qatar, and Egypt) will hold a meeting next week, but due to Iran's participation, it will be a six-way meeting.

According to reports, after returning to Lebanon, Jean-Yves Le Drian, France's special envoy in Lebanon affairs, will meet with Lebanese officials during his second trip and invite them to engage in inclusive dialogue.

It is not yet clear whether the inclusive dialogue meeting will be held in Lebanon, France, or an Arab country. It is likely it will take place in France at the end of July, and the new Doha conference will be held in Paris.

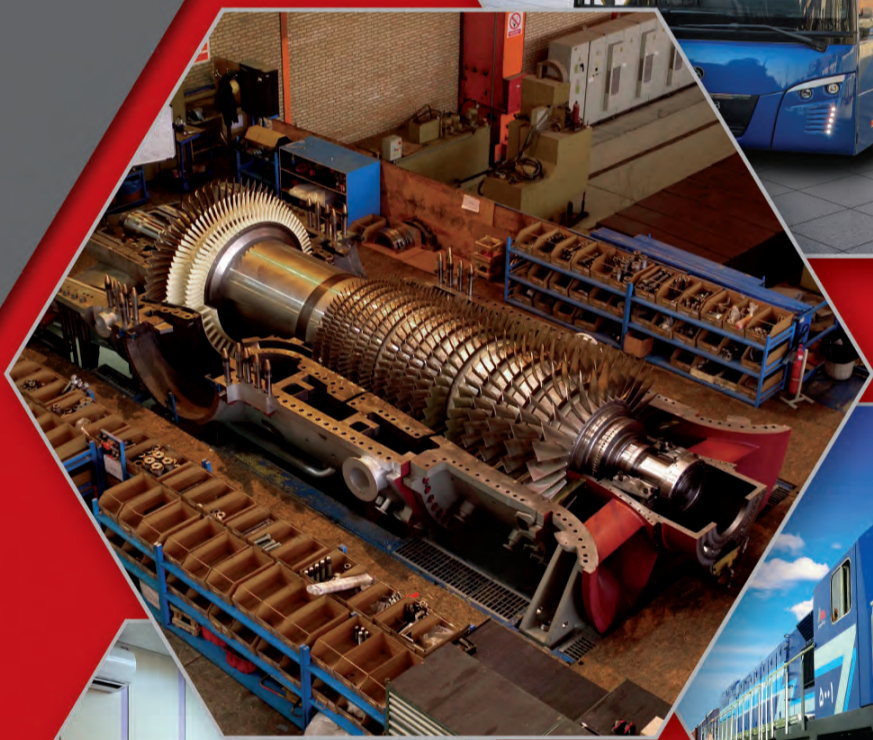
Former Lebanese president Michel Aoun's term ended in October of 2022 and since then, the nation's lawmakers have been unable to reach an agreement as to who should replace him and assume the presidency.

Since that time, according to Lebanese constitutional law, Lebanon's Prime Minister Najib Mikati's transitional cabinet, a caretaker government with limited powers, has been carrying out the duties of the president in the Lebanese government.



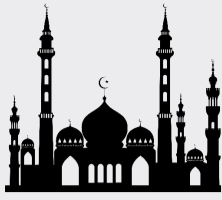
## MAPNA at the Borders of Global Advanced Technologies

«MAPNA» Group during its period of activities has possessed impressive developments in the industry and economy of the country. Today, MAPNA is an international knowledge-based economic and industrial group that beside localizing most of required equipment of the infrastructural sectors, meets the demands of the most important strategic infrastructures like in the fields of energy, rail transport, health, electrification, water and air industry through offering solutions, massive products and services to its various customers inside and outside of the country. MAPNA also offers its technical and engineering services in the international markets and it has on its record implementation of mega projects in different parts of the world.



MAPNA Group  
گروه مینا  
نماد خودباوری





## PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	12:08
■ Evening (Maghreb)	19:45
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	03:06
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	04:52

92. Never should a believer kill a believer; but (if it so happens) by mistake, (Compensation is due): If one (so) kills a believer, it is ordained that he should free a believing slave, and pay compensation to the deceased's family, unless they remit it freely. If the deceased belonged to a people at war with you, and he was a believer, the freeing of a believing slave (is enough). If he belonged to a people with whom ye have treaty of Mutual alliance, compensation should be paid to his family, and a believing slave be freed. For those who find this beyond their means, (is prescribed) a fast for two months running; by way of repentance to Allah. for Allah hath all knowledge and all wisdom. Surah 4. Women (92)

## South Pars Phase 11 Platform Installed

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

**TEHRAN - The platform of Iran's South Pars (SP) Phase 11 was installed in the Persian Gulf on Wednesday.**

The installation operation of SP Phase 11 platform planned by National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) and Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC) started on Tuesday and was successfully completed on Wednesday in collaboration with Petropars Company and Iranian Offshore Engineering and Construction Company (IOEC) by using the Oceanic-5000 Crane Barge.

The 3,200-ton platform, the heaviest in the South Pars gas field, was moved and installed in an unprecedented operation by Iranian experts, and gas production from the strategic phase will start soon after 20 years.

The target gas output from South Pars Phase 11 is 56 million cubic meters per day (mcm/d). Addressing the ceremony Oil Minister Javad Owji said that Phase 11 of Iran's South Pars (SP) gas field will yield four to five billion dollars annually.

Pointing to a 22-year delay in development of this phase, the minister added its output will help reduce the gap between production and consumption of gas in the country.

The installation operation of SP Phase 11 platform was carried out by National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC), Petropars Company, and Iranian Offshore Engineering and Construction Company (IOEC), he mentioned.

Based on the contract, French company Total was to get some \$4.9 billion to develop Phase 11, recalled Owji, adding the company withdrew and missed the opportunity, as the project was implemented amid sanctions by Iranian experts.

President Seyyed Ebrahim Raeisi will inaugurate the SP Phase development project soon, said Owji, adding gas production from Phase 11 will be up to 15 million cubic meters per day (mcm/d) in the first stage and will gradually reach 50 mcm/d.

Phase 11 was the only undeveloped part of South Pars joint field and the other side [Qatar] kept extracting gas during the delay in implementing the development project in Iran, he regretted.

Owji said his ministry has carried out prioritized projects, including inauguration of Abadan Refinery Phase 2, inauguration of Phase 14 refinery, inauguration of the first phase of NGL 3200 plant in Hoveyze, and installation of Phase 11 platform.

He added that Iran has become self-sufficient in constructing refinery and petrochemical plant, and also developing oil and gas fields.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of the official ceremony of transfer and installation of the platform of South Pars (SP) Phase 11, the minister hailed the "creative" task of transporting and installing the platform and added it was manufactured three years earlier than the due time.

French company Total and CNPC International, a subsidiary of China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC), signed a \$4.9 billion contract to develop South Pars



Phase 11, but they withdrew under tough conditions caused by sanctions, he said.

"The SP Phase 11 development project was completed by the 13th (incumbent) administration through exploiting full capacity and its platform was installed," continued Owji, announcing that it will become operational with an initial gas output of 12 to 15 million cubic meters per day (mcm/d) within few weeks.

Four wells of the phase have been activated and two more will come on stream within few months, mentioned the minister, saying gas produced there will increase the country's revenue and help redress imbalance between gas production and consumption in winter.

Meanwhile the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) managing director said transportation of the South Pars Phase 11 is "unparalleled" in the history of the country's oil industry in terms of execution and complexity.

Addressing the official ceremony of transfer and installation of the Phase 11 platform, Mohsen Khojastehmehr added his company officially engaged in the development project of the phase, continuing, "In addition, we put manufacture of platform jacket and second platform on the agenda to complete the development, and the Iranian companies, which signed the related contract, are currently building it."

The project will help redress imbalance between domestic gas production and consumption, and will also increase the country's annual revenue by \$5 billion.

The NIOC CEO said development of South and North Azadegan oil fields in southwestern Iran is underway.

Last year, 40 new oil wells came on stream, increasing the daily output by 45,000 barrels, explained Khojastehmehr, adding 40 more wells will become functional this year, which will add 60,000 barrels to Azadegan's oil production.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) worth \$7 billion was signed in the presence of President Seyyed Ebrahim Raeisi in the previous year, and a seven-billion-dollar contract on integrated development of the second phase of Azadegan field will be inked this year, he said.

Khojastehmehr talked of maximum production in Hengam joint oil field in the Strait of Hormuz, the Persian Gulf, stating that Iran-Oman talks on joint production and development are underway.

Iran and Oman signed an agreement on their joint study on shared Hengam oil field last month.

The agreement is aimed at preparing a Master Development Plan (MDP) for the field, and different plans for further development and bilateral cooperation on exploitation of the field.

## Chadormalu Co. Had a Successful Performance in 1401

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Chadormalu Mining and Industrial Company is one of the most reputed companies in the capital market that this (financial year) year has been able to sell 44,000m tomans in the last Iranian calander year of 1401 and bring over 50% profits and 23,000 million tomans of net profits for its shareholders through implementing scientifically the cost management tools and it has materialized the slogan of the year, production growth and curbing inflation.



In this line deputy CEO of the company on financial and human capital Mr. Esmail Khorram in an interview explained the success and said that the revenues of the company last year was over 43.7 thousand tomans and net profit of 22.8 thousand tomans and as the result the margin of the profit net was 52%.

He then pointed to some important outcomes and achievements of Chadormalu Company in the past year and said that ranking first in the country in producing dry iron ore concentrate, materializing the production record in the steel and sponge iron sector since the start of using its related plants, 105% coverage of its schedule for production and retaining its sixth place among the companies in the capital market.

Khorram noted that the company last year could increase its capital by 7350b tomans and therefore the capital of the company rose from 11900b tomans to 19250 tomans.

He then explained how this success was achieved and hailed the managerial decision and reducing the costs as the major factors behind this achievement.

He also pointed to implementing modern and state-of-the-art techniques and tools in the field of energy consumption as the other reason behind this achievement.

## Economic Activity and Job Creation Is Sacred

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The CEO of Ghadir Investment Company during his visit to Iran Alloy Steel Company and ongoing steelmaking Yazd 1 project emphasized continuation and increase in sustainable production and said that along with several record-breakings and achievements of Iran Alloy Steel, he should emphasize this point that importance of continuation and increase of sustainable production is more than setting records.



Dr. Maziar Hosseini said that continuation in production and increase of sustainable production is more important than setting record. He added that entering the mercantile exchange can be a solution for resolving some problems, adding that companies should financial and debt tools for their developments and rebuilding their systems because using the profits for development is very expensive and costly.

He noted that economic activity and job creation is sacred, adding that Yazd 1 project of Iran Alloy Steel Company is one of the sacred economic actions in the country.

Yazd 1 alloy steel project is one of the gigantic steel complex of the country that after almost a decade of hiatus is on the verge of inauguration and continuous production and this plant has capacity for producing 700,000 tons of product.

## Iran, Venezuela to Launch Joint Paper-Production Factory Soon

TEHRAN (MNA) - Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance announced that Iran and Venezuela will launch a joint paper-production factory in the near future.

Mohammad Mehdi Esmaili made the remarks on the sidelines of the cabinet meeting on Wednesday. Esmaili stated that Venezuela has allocated 400 hectares of forests to this factory due to its moderate and suitable climate.

The Iranian minister added that all of its machinery has been imported from Iran.

According to Esmaili, Iran's technical team is scheduled to travel to Venezuela in the coming days and visit the technical facilities of the mentioned factory.

"Efforts are being made to put the paper factory into operation in the shortest possible time," he pointed out.

Esmaili further added that Iran has good opportunities in regional markets to sell the paper produced in this factory and part of the domestic demand for paper can also be met from this source.

## Iran, Kazakhstan Set \$3b Target for Trade in Two Years

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran and Kazakhstan have set a \$3 billion target for bilateral trade within the next two years. Iran's Deputy Minister of Agriculture Alireza Peimanpak and Kazakhstan's Deputy Prime Minister Serik Zhumangarin in a meeting in Kazakhstan on Wednesday, finalized a roadmap for economic cooperation between the two countries.

The roadmap included plans by the two governments to increase bilateral trade to an annual \$3 billion within a two-year time span.

In his visit to Kazakhstan, the Iranian deputy agriculture minister was accompanied by a delegation of experts in different agricultural and food areas.

The two sides have reportedly signed several agreements on exports of Iranian food and agricultural products to Kazakhstan and imports of the feedstock required by Iran from the country.

## Iran, Iraq to Cooperate in Launching Science and Technology Towns

TEHRAN (IRNAN) - Iranian Research Organization for Science and Technology (IROST) and ALSEBT Research Center of Iraq will maintain cooperation in launching science and technology towns.

The general supervisor of ALSEBT Research Center of Iraq Youssef Khalaf Youssef toured the Iranian Research Organization for Science and Technology on Wednesday.

Youssef discussed exchanging experiences with Iran in launching a science and technology park.

He said that ALSEBT Research Center provides many

scientific and medical services to Iraqi people including the establishment of seven specialized hospitals and three advanced universities.

The scientific town that is supposed to be established will be coordinated by the Iraqi Ministry of science.

Meanwhile, CEO of IROST Hassan Zamanian said that IROST has implemented the necessary equipment for transferring technology to the industry by equipping various pilots in this field.

It is also a bridge between the university and the industry, he added.

## Regular Weekly Flights from Gorgan to Aktau

GORGAN (IP) - Gorgan-Aktau flights increased from twice per month to regular weekly flights from Thursday June 29.

Regular weekly flights from Gorgan (Iran) to Aktau (Kazakhstan) was launched from Thursday due to high demands on the part of businessmen, announced Ali Metanat, director general of Golestan Airports.

The price of Gorgan-Aktau flights has also been reduced to 4,500,000 tomans. Gorgan-Aktau flights were initially once a month, but after negotiations, the number of these flights reached two flights per month, Matant stated.

Iranian citizens, Kazakhs in Golestan Province, and businessmen welcomed these regular weekly flights from Gorgan International Airport to Aktau. Until now, passengers could carry up to 25 kg of luggage for free, but for the comfort of passengers, this allowance is increased to 40 kg. In addition, the price of tickets from Gorgan to Aktau has decreased to 4,500,000 tomans, Metanat added.

These flights develop and expand commercial, economic, and cultural relations between Kazakhstan and Iran. Moreover, strengthening commercial ties and communication between citizens for leisure and travel and religious and medical purposes are among the benefits of increasing flights.

In addition, establishing a direct flight from Gorgan to Aktau will facilitate the relationship of nearly 20,000 Kazakhs living in Gorgan with their motherland.

## Chinese Ready to Be Present in Iran's Free and Special Economic Zones

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Commercial attache of China Embassy in Tehran in meeting with Advisor to President and Secretary of Iran's Supreme Council of Free Trade-Industrial and Special Economic Zones Mr. Hojjatollah Abdolmaleki announced readiness of his country and its investors for investment in Iran's free and special economic zones.

In the meeting Mr. Abdolmaleki announced 700 packages of investment in the free zones, adding that those packages were offered to the commercial attache to be given to Chinese companies and expressed hope that it would be welcomed by them.

He also said that Chinese companies are ready to cooperate and invest in the infrastructural projects in the free and special economic zones of the country.

Meanwhile China's commercial attache, for his part, invited Iran to attend the joint economic commission of Iran and China which will be held in July in Beijing. He added that they intend to hold a conference on the sidelines of the meeting for introducing investment opportunities and investment packages in Iran's free zones. He added that after the visit of President Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi to China, many Chinese companies expressed their interests for investment in Iran, adding that the amount of investment by the Chinese last year grew by 159% which is very considerable amount.



## Japanese Researchers Develop Robot Arms to Unlock Creativity



TOKYO (Dispatches) - What would society look like if cyborg body parts were freely available for use like roadside rental bicycles? Masahiko Inami's team at the University of Tokyo have sought to find out by creating wearable robotic arms.

Inami's team is developing a series of technologies rooted in the idea of "jizai", a Japanese term that he says roughly denotes autonomy and the freedom to do as one pleases.

The aim is to foster something like the relationship between musician and instrument, "lying somewhere between a human and a tool, like how a musical instrument can become as if a part of your body."

Inami says he was inspired by traditional Japanese puppetry and a quasi-horror short story by novelist Yasunari Kawabata about a man who borrows a young woman's arm and proceeds to spend the night with it.

"This is absolutely not a rival to human beings, but rather something that helps us do as we please, like a bicycle or e-bike. It supports us and can unlock creativity," Inami said.

A promotional video for the "Jizai Arms" shows two ballet dancers performing a routine with robotic arms protruding from their backs and torsos — human and machine moving in concert. The dancers ultimately embrace, cyborg arms included.

Some wearers grow attached to the arms after some time, Inami said. "Taking them off after using them for a while feels a little sad. That's where they're a little different to other tools," he said.

But the potential goes beyond turning a novelist's fantasy into reality, such as helping in search-and-rescue missions, he added. "In the future we might see wings growing out of people's backs, or drones attached to people ... Maybe someone will come up with a sport that requires six arms or invent a new type of swimming," Inami said.

## Intermittent Fasting Is as Effective as Counting Calories

LONDON (Dispatches) - New research finds that people who try time-restricted eating can keep it up longer than people who count calories.

Intermittent fasting has taken off in popularity in recent years as an alternative to more traditional weight loss advice, including counting calories, which can be cumbersome and hard to sustain for some people.

Intermittent fasting can take different forms. One approach — called time-restricted eating — limits when people eat to a specific window of time, often around six to eight hours.

Some research suggests this can be successful for weight loss in the short term because people end up eating less, but it has been less clear how well it works over a longer stretch of time.

A study published Monday may have an answer.

"We really wanted to see if people can lose weight with this over a year. Can they maintain the weight loss?" says Krista Varady, a professor of nutrition at the University of Illinois Chicago, who has studied intermittent fasting for the past two decades and led the new study.

Varady's research finds that intermittent fasting can indeed help people lose weight and keep it off over the course of a year, with effects similar to tracking calories. The results of the clinical trial were published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

The amount of weight loss wasn't dramatic — equivalent to about 5% of body weight — but the findings are encouraging to researchers in the field, in part because they underscore that people could keep this habit up over a long stretch of time.

"That is pretty exciting," says Courtney Peterson, a professor of nutrition at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, who wasn't involved in the research. "This study has the most compelling results suggesting that people can stick with it, that it's not a fad diet in the sense that people can do it for three months and they fall off the wagon for a year."

Varady's team recruited 90 adults with obesity (meaning a body mass index over 30) from the Chicago area and randomly assigned them to one of three groups: One group could eat only between noon and 8 p.m., another had to count calories and cut daily energy intake by 25%, and the third group didn't make any changes to their eating.

After six months of weight loss, the participants had a "weight maintenance phase." That was accomplished by extending the eating window from eight hours to 10 hours in the intermittent fasting group and bumping up the caloric intake in the calorie restriction group.

Varady says they designed the study that way because "most people with diets will lose weight for about six months and after that it usually plateaus."

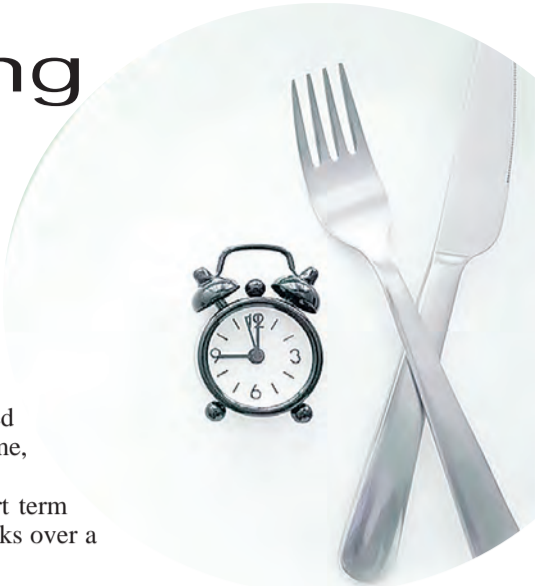
The study found that those who did time-restricted eating lost, on average, about 10 pounds more than those in the control group, while those who counted their calories lost about 12 pounds more. The difference between the two groups wasn't statistically significant.

"The key take-away is that you can basically achieve the same amount of energy restriction by counting time instead of counting calories," says Varady.

Previous research on intermittent fasting found that when people limit eating to an eight-hour window and deliberately restrict calories, they achieve similar weight loss over the course of a year as people who only restrict calories but don't limit eating to a specific time window.

What's different about the new study is that people in the intermittent fasting group weren't instructed to watch their calories, but they ended up reducing their daily intake anyway, by around 400 calories — the same amount as the calorie-counting group.

The results suggest that time-restricted eating can lead to a kind of "natural calorie restriction," Varady says. She says it may be largely a result of people having less time to eat, particularly in the after-dinner hours.



## Spain Delays Rocket Launch Until Sept. Over Wildfire Risk



MADRID (Dispatches) - The maiden flight of Spain's Miura 1 rocket, twice suspended in recent weeks, has now been delayed until September over fears its launch could start a wildfire, its developer said Tuesday.

Built by private Spanish startup PLD Space, the rocket had initially been scheduled for take-off from El Arenosillo, a coastal military base in the southwestern province of Huelva, on May 31, but was called off due to high winds.

It was then aborted for a second time on June 17 due to a last-minute technical problem.

After talks with the National Institute for Aerospace Technology (INTA), "PLD Space... has postponed the launch of Miura 1 until next September," it said in a statement.

"The postponement is motivated by obligatory compliance with the prevention of forest fires... as well as the high temperatures" in southern Spain "to ensure the safety of the area where the launch is carried out".

The announcement came as Spain was in the grip of its first summer heatwave, with Monday's temperatures hitting a peak of 44.4 degrees Celsius (111.9 degrees Fahrenheit) in the Huelva province.

The soaring temperatures, expected to last until Thursday, raise the risk of forest fires, which has also been heightened by an ongoing drought.

PLD Space's Miura 1, named after a breed of fighting bull, is a small sub-orbital launch vehicle that stands a mere 12 metres (40 feet) tall and is capable of placing objects in space.

When it launches, the rocket is slated to fly just 100 kilometres (62 miles) from the Earth's surface, carrying sensors to study microgravity conditions on a flight that will last 12 minutes.

While that distance would put it in outer space, the rocket is not powerful enough to reach orbit.

## New Carbon Accounting Rules Target "Greenwashing"

PARIS (Dispatches) - Common standards unveiled Monday for companies to report their greenhouse gas emissions could curb misleading climate claims in the corporate world, the chair of the body that wrote the norms told AFP.

Currently, most large companies report how many tonnes of carbon they emit into the atmosphere each year, but the data is often not reliable.

The poor quality of data and lack of common standards allows companies to overstate their climate credentials -- the practice of "greenwashing".

The new standards issued by the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) on Monday will set uniform sustainability and climate standards for companies to follow worldwide from 2024.

"Greenwashing... will end the day our standards have gained a sufficiently significant position in the markets," ISSB chairman Emmanuel Faber told AFP.

The standards aim to "reassure the financial market about the information it is given", said Faber, the former chief executive of French food company Danone.

The ISSB was created by the International Financial Reporting Standards Foundation, a non-profit organisation governing international accounting rules.

The new standards -- dubbed IFRS S1 and IFRS S2 -- "will help to improve trust and confidence in company disclosures about sustainability to inform investment decisions," the ISSB said.

"And for the first time, the standards create a common language for disclosing the effect of climate-related risks and opportunities on a company's prospects," it added.

Companies have to voluntarily adopt the standards, or governments have to decide whether to require them to do so.

Countries are adopting measures to achieve carbon neutrality by mid-century in the hopes of limiting the increase in global temperatures at 1.5 degrees Celsius in line with the 2015 Paris climate pact.

This is creating a patchwork of regulations for firms to comply with and the financial stakes in the transition are becoming more and more important, both for the firms and their shareholders.

"When you have lots of countries all making regulations and requirements at the same time, that's a bit of a nightmare scenario for companies," said Kate Levick, the associate director for sustainable finance at independent think tank E3G.

IFRS accounting standards are required in many countries, while many companies in other countries use them in order to better tap international finance.

The ISSB believes that a number of states, including Japan and Britain, will quickly make the new climate standard mandatory, and hopes China, which boasts the world's second-largest economy, will adopt it as well.

The European Union is working on its own standards, which will also include biodiversity and human rights, and the ISSB hopes they will be compatible.

The ISSB standards also define how companies measure their direct and indirect emissions, using a method that is widely used but until now has not been mandatory -- the Greenhouse Gas Protocol.

The standards also require companies to audit their emissions data and ensure their climate strategy is adopted by the top management.

E3G's Levick believes that the ISSB standards will help reduce greenwashing by companies. "The disclosure requirements have been very carefully considered and thought out and designed with anti-greenwashing in mind," she said.

"The whole idea of this is to hold firms accountable."

## Sri Lanka Scraps Monkey Business Plan



COLOMBO (Dispatches) - Bankrupt Sri Lanka's government said it was scrapping plans to export around 100,000 endangered monkeys to China following an outcry and a court case by animal lovers.

The toque macaque is endemic to Sri Lanka and common on the island of 22 million people but is classed as endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) red list.

Agriculture minister Mahinda Amaraweera said in June that China wanted the monkeys for 1,000 zoos across the country, describing the move as a solution to the animals destroying crops.

But on Monday, Sri Lanka's Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) told the Court of Appeal that it had decided not to go ahead with the export and that the action filed by 30 wildlife and environmental activists could be terminated.

"A state attorney informed court on behalf of the DWC that no monkeys will be exported to China or elsewhere," a court official told AFP.

Wildlife enthusiasts welcomed the government's decision not to go ahead with the exports.

"This is an excellent outcome for wildlife conservation in Sri Lanka," they said in a brief statement.

The proposed sale to China came as it faced its worst-ever economic crisis. No financial details were made available.

Sri Lanka was forced to secure a bailout from the IMF in March this year after defaulting on its \$46 billion foreign debt and declared bankruptcy in April last year.

Media reports had speculated that China may have wanted such large numbers of monkeys from Sri Lanka for medical research.

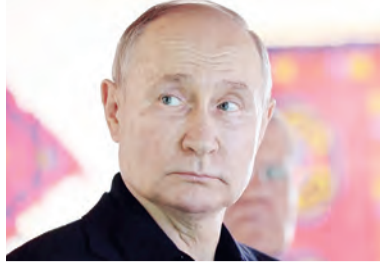
Monkeys are considered pests in Sri Lanka because they destroy crops and raid villages in search of food, and sometimes attack people.

## S. Africa to Host BRICS Summit Despite Putin Arrest Warrant

JOHANNESBURG (Dispatches) - South Africa said it will host the BRICS bloc summit in August as planned, amid speculation that it may move to China so Russia's President Vladimir Putin can attend in a nation not obliged to arrest him on war crimes accusations.

South Africa has a duty as a signatory to the International Criminal Court (ICC) to arrest Putin if he attends the talks between the leaders of Brazil, Russia, India and China, due to an arrest warrant over the deportation of children from Ukraine.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa met with him on June 17 in Russia, historically a strong ally of the governing African National Congress (ANC) since it was a liberation movement fighting white minority rule decades ago.



## Greek Leftist Leader Tsipras Quits as Syriza Party Head

ATHENS (Dispatches) - Former Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras has announced he will be stepping down as leader of the leftist main opposition Syriza party following a staggering defeat in a parliamentary election.

"The time has come to start a new cycle," Tsipras said in a televised address on Thursday, days after conservative Kyriakos Mitsotakis was given another four years as prime minister.

"The negative result can – and must – become the beginning of this cycle," said Tsipras.

The 48-year-old said he was resigning to pave the way for elections for a new party leader and that he would not be a candidate, adding that a reform of Syriza was necessary.



## Riots Spread, Thousands March In Memory of Shot Teenager



NANTERRE (Dispatches) - President Emmanuel Macron battled to contain a mounting crisis after riots spread across France overnight, set off by the deadly police shooting of a teenager of North African descent during a traffic stop in a Paris suburb.

Police made 180 arrests during a second night of unrest, Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said, as public anger spilled onto the streets in towns and cities across the country.

Macron held a crisis meeting with senior ministers over the shooting, after which Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne dismissed calls from some political opponents for a state of emergency to be declared.

Darmanin said 40,000 police officers would on Thursday be deployed across the country -- nearly four times the numbers mobilised the previous day -- including 5,000 in the Paris region in a bid to quell the unrest.

"The response of the state must be extremely firm," Darmanin said, speaking from the northern town of Mons-en-Baroeul where several municipal buildings were set alight.

The incident has fed longstanding complaints of police violence and systemic racism inside law enforcement agencies from rights groups and within the low-income, racially mixed suburbs that ring major cities in France.

The shooting of the 17-year-old, identified as Nahel, took place in Nanterre, on the western outskirts of Paris. The local prosecutor said the officer involved had been put under formal investigation for voluntary homicide.

Under France's legal system, being placed under formal investigation is akin to being charged in Anglo-Saxon jurisdictions. "The public prosecutor considers that the legal conditions for using the weapon have not been met," Pascal Prache, the prosecutor, told a news conference.

At a march in Nanterre in memory of Nahel, participants railed against what they perceived as a culture of police impunity and a failure to reform law enforcement in a country that has experienced waves of rioting and protests over police conduct.

"We demand that the judiciary does its job, otherwise we'll do it our way," a neighbour of Nahel's family told Reuters at the march.

Thousands thronged the streets. Riding atop a flatbed lorry, the teenager's mother waved to the crowd wearing a white t-shirt reading "Justice for Nahel" with the date of his death below.

A video shared on social media, verified by Reuters, shows two police officers beside a Mercedes AMG car, with one shooting at the teenage driver at close range as he pulled away. He died shortly afterwards from his wounds.

The Nanterre prosecutor said the police officer who fired the shot told investigators he had done so to prevent the teenager from fleeing after committing several traffic violations and because he was worried for his safety and that of the public. The Nanterre prosecutor said he was known to police for previously failing to comply with a traffic stop orders.

Macron on Wednesday said the shooting was unforgivable. As he convened his emergency meeting he also condemned the unrest.

The unrest has revived memories of riots in 2005 that convulsed France for three weeks and forced then-president Jacques Chirac to declare a state of emergency.

That wave of violence erupted in the Paris suburb of Clichy-sous-Bois and spread across the country following the death of two young people electrocuted in a power substation as they hid from police.

Two officers were acquitted in a trial ten years later.

## Muslim Nations Denounce Quran Burning in Sweden

BAGHDAD (AFP) - Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia and other Middle Eastern nations condemned the burning of the Koran by an Iraqi living in Sweden, warning such acts "inflammate" the feelings of Muslims around the world.

Under a heavy police presence, Salwan Momika, a 37-year-old who fled to Sweden several years ago, on Wednesday stomped on the Koran before setting several pages alight in front of Stockholm's largest mosque.

Police in the Swedish capital had granted him a permit for the protest in line with free-speech protections, but said later they had opened an investigation into the man over "agitation".

The incident occurred as Muslims around the world began marking the Eid al-Adha holiday and as the annual hajj pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia was drawing to a close.

Iraq condemned the Swedish authorities' decision to grant an "extremist" permission to burn the Koran.

"These events inflame the feelings of Muslims around the world and represent a dangerous provocation for them," the foreign ministry in Baghdad said.

Iraq's influential Shiite cleric Moqtada Sadr called for a demonstration outside the Swedish embassy in Baghdad to demand the removal of the ambassador, charging that his state is "hostile to Islam".

Iran joined in the condemnation, calling the Koran burning "provocative, ill-considered and unacceptable".

"The government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran... do not tolerate such an insult and strongly condemn it," said foreign ministry spokesperson Nasser Kanani.

"The Swedish government is expected to seriously consider the principle of responsibility and accountability in this regard, while preventing the repetition of insulting the holy sanctities," he added.

Saudi Arabia, which hosted around 1.8 million Muslim pilgrims for the hajj that ended on Wednesday, also denounced the Koran burning.

"These hateful and repeated acts cannot be accepted with any justification," the Saudi foreign ministry said.

Former United Nations Ambassador Nikki Haley is criticizing former President Donald Trump for being too friendly to China during his time in office while also warning that weak support for Ukraine would "only encourage" China to invade Taiwan.

There has been no apparent military push by Ukraine to exploit that turmoil, though the government has been tight-lipped about recent battlefield developments as it seeks to gain momentum in its recently launched counteroffensive.

The Kremlin reeled from the weekend mutiny led by Yevgeny Prigozhin, owner of the Wagner private army of prison recruits and other mercenaries.

Wagner has played a key combat role for Russia in Ukraine. The rebellion posed the most serious threat so far to Russian President Vladimir Putin's grip on power.

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## Ukraine Claims Russian Missile Kills 11 in a Pizza Parlor

KYIV (Dispatches) - Ukrainian authorities arrested a man they accused of helping Russia direct a missile strike that killed at least 11 people, including three teenagers, at a popular pizza restaurant in eastern Ukraine.

The Tuesday evening attack on Kramatorsk wounded 61 other people, Ukraine's National Police said. It was the latest bombardment of a Ukrainian city, a tactic Russia has used heavily in the 16-month-old war.

The strike, and others across Ukraine late Tuesday and early Wednesday, indicated that the Kremlin is not easing its aerial onslaught, despite political and military turmoil at home after a short-lived armed uprising in Russia last weekend.

All eyes are on NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg and Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at the European Union summit.

A Belarusian opposition figure says that he has provided the International Criminal Court with materials that allegedly detail President Alexander Lukashenko's involvement in the forcible transfer of Ukrainian children to Belarus.

Norway has approved 19 oil and gas projects on the Norwegian continental shelf, saying the total investments are worth over \$19 billion.

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## UK Court Rules Rwanda Deportation Plan Unlawful

LONDON (Dispatches) - A British court has ruled that the government's controversial plan to deport asylum seekers to Rwanda is unlawful as the African nation cannot be considered a safe third country.

In a major setback for Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, who has pledged to deter people from arriving across the Channel in small boats, three Court of Appeal judges on Thursday said the "removal of asylum seekers to Rwanda" would be "unlawful".

"The deficiencies in the asylum system in Rwanda are such that there are substantial grounds for believing that there is a real risk that persons sent to Rwanda will be returned to their home countries where they face persecution or other inhumane treatment," judge Ian Burnett said, but added that he, himself, disagreed with the other two judges on this point.

The United Kingdom government has been planning to deport asylum seekers to the East African country as part of a 120 million pound (\$148m) deal to deter people from crossing the English Channel from France in small boats.

Asylum Aid director Alison Pickup said many of her clients were breathing a sigh of relief.

"Some of them have experienced torture, they've had very traumatic journeys, and have been waiting for over a year to find out if they will be able to make a case in the UK – or if they will be sent to Rwanda, a country they know nothing about," Pickup told Al Jazeera.

She added that the ruling will "hopefully give them that reassurance of safety".

The government has said it will appeal against the decision.

The Rwandan government said that while the matter was one for the British courts, it took exception to the judges' conclusions.

"Rwanda is one of the safest countries in the world and we have been recognised by the UNHCR and other international institutions for our exemplary treatment of refugees," said government spokesperson Yolande Makolo.

As well as fighting against criticism from his own right-wing party and the public on migrant and refugee arrivals, Sunak is dealing with stubbornly high inflation and a cost-of-living crisis.

Sunak made "stop the boats" one of his priorities and hopes a fall in arrivals might help his Conservative Party pull off a win at the next national election.

The Rwanda plan was announced in April last year, but the first deportation flight was blocked by the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), which imposed an injunction preventing any deportations until the conclusion of legal action in Britain.

In December, the High Court ruled the policy was lawful, but that decision was challenged by asylum seekers from several countries, along with human rights organizations, who blasted the plan as "cruel", "inhumane" and "neo-colonial".



## Cambodia PM Hun Sen Accused of Inciting Violence on Social Media

PHNOM PENH (Dispatches) - Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Sen has been accused of inciting violence against his political opponents on Facebook, prompting an oversight board for the social media platform to recommend that his Facebook and Instagram accounts be immediately suspended for six months.

A board of experts for Meta Platforms Inc, which issues binding content moderation decisions for the company's Facebook and Instagram platforms, announced on Thursday that Facebook content moderators had erred by allowing a livestreamed speech by Hun Sen, in which he threatened political opponents, to remain on his Facebook page.

The "newsworthiness" of Hun Sen's threatening comments was not a valid reason to allow his speech to remain on Facebook, the board said, adding that the platform had amplified Hun Sen's incitement to violence ahead of the country's July 23 national election by allowing the speech to remain online.

"Hun Sen uses social media to amplify threats against his opponents, spreading them more widely and causing more harm than he would be able to do without access to Meta's platforms," the board wrote in its 26-page report, calling the Cambodian leader's behaviour a "serious breach".

"Hun Sen's use of the platforms to incite violence against his political opposition, taken in the context of his history, his government's human rights abuses, and the upcoming election combine to require immediate action," the board added.

Meta has agreed to remove the video of the original, livestreamed speech, Reuters news agency reported. The social media company now has 60 days to decide whether it will accept the board's recommendation and suspend Hun Sen's Facebook and Instagram accounts.

In the controversial speech livestreamed in January, Hun Sen railed against people who he said had accused his ruling Cambodian People's Party of stealing votes in local elections last year. Hun Sen said that his critics had a choice between facing the court or being beaten with "a stick".

"Either you face legal action in court, or I rally [CPP] people for a demonstration and beat you up," Hun Sen said.

The video of his speech received about 600,000 views, according to Meta. US politics, Canada's multiculturalism, South America's geopolitical rise—we bring you the stories that matter.



## Iran Finish Runners-Up at 2023 Asian Kabaddi Championship

TEHRAN (MNA) - The national Iranian Kabaddi team finished second after being defeated in the final of the 2023 Asian Kabaddi Championship on Friday.

The Iranian team defeated Japan 70-13 to reach the final at the 2023 Asian Kabaddi Championship on Thursday. The team faced India for the second time in the championship in

the final on Friday and were defeated again 32-41.

Seven-time champions India defeated Iran 33-28 on Thursday in the same competition.

The 2023 edition of the 2023 Asian Kabaddi Championship took place in Busan, South Korea from June 27 to 30. The continental kabaddi event is being played after a hiatus of six years.



## Iran Neither Forgets Nor Forgives Perpetrators of Sardasht Chemical Attack

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran will neither forget nor forgive the perpetrators of the 1987 chemical attack on the Iranian city of Sardasht in West Azarbaijan Province, Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian says.

In a Wednesday message on the occasion of the 36th anniversary of the chemical attack on Sardasht, the Iranian foreign minister once again drew attention to the role of Western countries in the crime by sending arms to Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein.

"There is valid evidence and undeniable documents about the practical and extensive complicity of some Western countries, especially Germany, Britain, France, the Netherlands and the United States, in committing these crimes by equipping the Saddam regime with chemical weapons and helping it use them against the Iranian people," Amirabdollahian said.

Over 100 people were killed in the Sardasht attack on June 28, 1987, and thousands more were exposed to chemical agents.

After three decades, many of the survivors of the chemical attack still have to live with the long-term respiratory and even psychological effects of inhaling mustard gas used in the attack.

Amirabdollahian also said Western countries that claim to defend human rights have overtly hampered Iran's legal measures over the last 36 years to secure the rights of the martyrs and survivors of the attack and punish the perpetrators as well as their accomplices.

He added that the Western-backed atrocities against Iran have been committed in clear violation of international law and the United Nations Charter, emphasizing that all the perpetrators must be held accountable for their inhumane acts.

The top Iranian diplomat stressed that the obstacles in the way of pursuing the chemical victims' rights will neither remove the international responsibility of the relevant states nor will it disrupt Iran's determination to follow its rights.

He noted that one of the less seen aspects of the use of chemical weapons against Iran was its "widespread use against cities and civilians, especially defenseless women and innocent children," which killed thousands of people and injured tens of thousands of others, many of whom are still suffering.



The Iranian foreign minister further said the West's sanctions on medicine and medical equipment required by the victims of chemical attacks are a blatant example of "the most inhumane crimes against humanity."

Amirabdollahian emphasized, however, that the Iranian government is making serious efforts to provide medical services to the victims of chemical attacks despite all the sanctions against the country.

"As the biggest victim of the widespread and systematic use of chemical weapons at the modern period, the Islamic Republic of Iran condemns the use of chemical weapons anywhere by anyone and under any circumstances and once again renews its commitment to the realization of a world free of chemical weapons," Amirabdollahian said.

He also urged the complete destruction of the US chemical weapons and the immediate and unconditional accession of the Israeli regime to the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons as well as its effective and non-discriminatory full implementation to achieve its full objectives.

## Iran, Kazakhstan Set \$3b Target for Trade in Two Years

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran and Kazakhstan have set a \$3 billion target for bilateral trade within the next two years.

Iran's Deputy Minister of Agriculture Alireza Peimanpak and Kazakhstan's Deputy Prime Minister Serik Zhumangarin in a meeting in Kazakhstan on Wednesday, finalized a roadmap for economic cooperation between the two countries.

The roadmap included plans by the two governments to increase bilateral trade to an annual \$3 billion within a two-year time span.

In his visit to Kazakhstan, the Iranian deputy agriculture minister was accompanied by a delegation of experts in different agricultural and food areas.

The two sides have reportedly signed several agreements on exports of Iranian food and agricultural products to Kazakhstan and imports of the feedstock required by Iran from the country.

## Iran, Iraq to Cooperate in Launching Science and Technology Towns

TEHRAN (IRNAN) - Iranian Research Organization for Science and Technology (IROST) and ALSEBT Research Center of Iraq will maintain cooperation in launching science and technology towns.

The general supervisor of ALSEBT Research Center of Iraq Youssef Khalaf Youssef toured the Iranian Research Organization for Science and Technology on Wednesday.

Youssef discussed exchanging experiences with Iran in launching a science and technology park.

He said that ALSEBT Research Center provides many scientific and medical services to Iraqi people including the establishment of seven specialized hospitals and three advanced universities.

The scientific town that is supposed to be established will be coordinated by the Iraqi Ministry of science.

Meanwhile, CEO of IROST Hassan Zamanian said that IROST has implemented the necessary equipment for transferring technology to the industry by equipping various pilots in this field.

It is also a bridge between the university and the industry, he added.

## Iran's Air Defense Force Aims to Produce Long-Range Military Equipment

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The commander of the Iranian Army's Air Defense Force has announced plans for his unit to manufacture advanced long-range military equipment to deal with potential threats.

"Concordant with potential threats and possible challenges ahead, the production of advanced long-range radar, missile and drone equipment is definitely on the agenda of the Army's Air Defense Force this year," Brigadier General Alireza Sabahi-Fard said on Wednesday.

He also emphasized that the current "full control" over the country's air borders manifests "the careful observation and monitoring" performed by engineers and specialists in thousands of air defense points across the country.

The round-the-clock endeavors by the Iranian air border guards ensure peace for the citizens, Sabahi-Fard added.

He also said the Army's Air Defense Force is "well-developed today, [and] this growth and power came about thanks to the will and efforts of the youth in various fields of air defense sciences."

Iranian military experts and technicians have in recent years made substantial headway in manufacturing a broad range of indigenous equipment, making the armed forces self-sufficient. Homegrown Iranian military products have also found many clients in the world.

Iranian officials have repeatedly warned that the country will not hesitate to strengthen its military capabilities, which are entirely meant for defense.

## Iran Calls for Int'l Support to Fight Drugs

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran's permanent representative to international organizations in Vienna has called for international support for Iran's fight against drug trafficking, particularly from countries benefiting the most from the reduction in production and smuggling of narcotics.

Mohsen Naziri-Asl made the remarks during a special session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs held to mark the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, during which he highlighted Iran's principled stance on the global drug problem. There has been an upward trend in the global opium production over the past two decades, with a 28% rise in poppy cultivation worldwide in 2022, he said, expressing concern over the rise in synthetic and industrial drugs production among Iran's neighboring countries.

"On average, more than 90% of the world's seizures of methamphetamine, 27% of heroin seizures, and 59% of morphine seizures in recent years have been conducted by the Islamic Republic of Iran," he revealed.

In the past year alone, Iranian anti-narcotics forces have successfully seized and confiscated 716 tons of various kinds of illicit drugs, he pointed out.

"Although preventing thousands of tons of illegal drugs from entering international markets has been beneficial for the whole world, this has come at a high economic and human cost for the Islamic Republic of Iran," Naziri-Asl said.

The official warned that without adequate support for frontline countries, the production of opioid-based narcotics in the region would also have serious consequences for other parts of the world. "Based on the principle of shared responsibility, the international community, especially countries benefiting the most from a reduction in drug trafficking, should support our country's fight against international drug smuggling," Iran's envoy said.

## Iran, Pakistan to Start Free Trade Talks in September

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran and Pakistan will start direct talks for a free trade deal in September, according to a senior Iranian trade official who says an agreement may be possible until the end of the Iranian calendar year in March 2024.

"If we can agree on free trade with this country this (calendar) year, it will be a major accomplishment," Hadi Talebian, who leads South Asia Department at Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), said.

Talebian said that a free trade deal with Pakistan will have its own complications because the balance of trade between the two countries is largely in Iran's favor. He said, however, that such a deal will contain "special arrangements" and will be much beneficial to Iran than a barter mechanism proposed by some businesses and government officials in Iran and Pakistan.

## Envoy Rejects Claims on Tehran's Interference in Iraqi Affairs

TEHRAN (IP) - The ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Iraq, rejected claims regarding Tehran's intervention in Baghdad's affairs and described it as a media controversy.

Mohammad Kazem Al-Sadegh, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Iraq, on Tuesday night, he said: "The statements made about Iran's interference in Iraqi politics and the appointment of personalities are nothing more than propagnada, controversy and media hype."

Al-Sadegh added: "Iraqis, by reaching this level of maturity and political experience, are able to shape their own destiny."

Mohammad Kazem Al-Sadegh praised Iraq's Prime Minister Mohammad Shia al-Sudani and said that he has a clear political plan to manage Iraq. He called Iraqi PM's foreign policy balanced and said that this policy has played an important role in bringing closer the views between Iran and the countries of the region.

Stating that Iraq and Iran have religious, cultural and historical ties, Al-Sadegh added: "There are relations and affection between the two countries and these relations are developing."

Iran's ambassador noted that the volume of trade between Iraq and Iran reached 12 billion dollars last year, adding, "We are looking to balance trade with Baghdad." In another part of his speech, Al-Sadegh addressed the issue of separatist terrorist groups based in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and emphasized that Iran has formed a committee with the Iraqi Kurdistan Region to control the borders and disarm these terrorists. 219

### Iran, EU...

FROM PAGE 1

The worth of trade between the Islamic Republic and the European countries had estimated over €1.6 billion during the first four months of 2022, according to the Eurostat figures. The data showed that Germany having 31% of the EU total trade exchange with the Islamic Republic from January to April 2023 has been Iran's biggest trade partner among the European countries.

### Putin's Life...

FROM PAGE 1

And in the next month he was given authority to enact laws before the early laws of Russia and to deduct two-thirds of the budget, and since Yeltsin has taken an illegal step in direction of dissolving the parliament, Russia was, more than ever since the 1917 Revolution,



close to internal conflict. This condition caused the ground to be paved for Yeltsin and Yeltsin found this freedom to impose his laws on the country with his presidential authorities. This decision through a referendum was approved in December 1993 and it was crystal clear that with this decision the disintegrated republics for their survival think to other things and ways than stretching their hands towards Yeltsin for begging.

After the 1998 financial crisis, Yeltsin actually reached the end of its political leadership and exactly hours after the beginning of 2000 and during in a huge global hysteria regarding the change of century and concern about automatic function of nuclear bombs, Yeltsin surprisingly announced his resignation and passed his government to a relatively less known Prime Minister Vladimir Putin who was a former officer and former successor of the head of intelligence service KGB after the collapse of Soviet Union.

On March 26, 2000, the novice president could easily defeat his rivals in the presidential election and he won the majority in the first round of the election. He won 71% of the votes in 2004 and his allies won the majority in the parliament election but international (the Westerners) and domestic observers questioned the legitimacy of the election. The Western observers warned even more regarding the actions of Russia in the late of 2004 which consolidated more supervision and command of the president on parliament, military community and regional officials.

Putin lasted and today after almost two decades, he has remained undisputed leader of Socialist Russia until now, and recent mutiny of Wagner Group which disrupted a little bit Putin's rein on power and the mercenary and contractor military group of Wagner rebelled against Defense Ministry of Russia which led to the controversy of shaking Putin's power.

I should stipulate this point that many media outlets' reports introduce Wagner Group as a private military contractor and the way it performs challenges this define and description for the group.

Private military company with having weapons and skillful and trained soldiers are used in the military operations instead of official army. This issue is also common in the West. For example there are many reports of signing contracts, the U.S. Administration used soldiers of the private military companies instead of army soldiers in military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. According to what have been disclosed by the media, a secret competition between Russian Defense Minister and Chief of Wagner Group Yevgeny Prigozhin who was, in the past, considered as the special chef and loyal of Putin has provided the ground for this mutiny which ended well with mediation of Russian President Alexandr Lukashenko and Putin was forced to change his defense minister. Of course this issue ended in favor of Putin and in other words Putin's life jacket was inflated.

### Top General...

FROM PAGE 1

On June 28, 1981, a powerful bomb went off at the headquarters of Iran's Islamic Republican Party (IRP), where the party's leaders were holding a meeting. The bombing killed scores of Iranian officials, including Ayatollah Beheshti. The MKO is known to have carried out the attack.

The MKO has carried out numerous terrorist attacks against Iranian civilians and government officials since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran in 1979. Out of the nearly 17,000 Iranians killed in terrorist attacks over the past four decades, about 12,000 have fallen victim to MKO's acts of terror.

In his message, Baqeri also pointed to the June 28, 1987 chemical attack on the Iranian city of Sardasht in West Azarbaijan Province by Western-backed Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein and censured the inaction of international human rights bodies vis-à-vis the two inhumane acts.

The top Iranian general said the global silence exposed the double standard of international bodies before all freedom- and justice-seeking people in the world.

He further criticized the use of human rights as a tool by colonial powers to impose their "illegitimate demands" on other countries, saying independent nations will not be supported by international bodies and laws if they decline to be dominated.

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## Weah in Turin Ahead of Juventus Move

**TURIN (Dispatches)** - United States international Timothy Weah has arrived in Turin, Juventus said, ahead of the player's move to the Serie A club from Ligue 1 side Lille. Juventus shared pictures and a video of Weah's arrival at the Turin airport on both their website and social media. Weah, who joined Lille from Paris St Germain in June 2019, will undergo his medical today, before signing a deal worth €12 million (RM61 million) for five seasons, Italian media reported.

## Simone Biles Poised for August Return to Competition

**LOS ANGELES (Dispatches)** - Gymnastics superstar Simone Biles is poised to compete in August for the first time since mental health and safety concerns cut short her Tokyo Olympics campaign, entering the August US Classic near Chicago. USA Gymnastics announced Wednesday that the four-time Olympic gold medallist was entered in the August 4-5 event, which would be her first since she withdrew from most of her events in Tokyo in 2021.

# Ageless Djokovic Aiming to Silence Young Guns Again at Wimbledon

**LONDON (Dispatches)** - A seemingly invincible Novak Djokovic playing some of the best tennis of his career at 36 heads to Wimbledon seeking to tighten his stranglehold on the men's game and its next generation by winning a record-extending 24th Grand Slam crown.

The Serbian scaled the summit by claiming his 23rd major at the French Open earlier this month, staving off younger rivals including the ailing Carlos Alcaraz in the semi-finals and Casper Ruud in the title clash.

Djokovic, who leapfrogged the injured Rafa Nadal in the all-time men's majors list, has won 11 of his 13 Grand Slam finals after turning 30 and the defending Wimbledon champion is in no mood to slow down on the biggest stage.

"Of course, the journey is still not over," Djokovic said following his Paris success. "I feel if I'm winning Grand Slams why even think about ending the career that already has been going on for 20 years."

"So I still feel motivated, still feel inspired to play the best tennis in these tournaments the most — Grand Slams. Those are the ones that count I guess the most in the history of our sport. I look forward already to Wimbledon."

With Nadal out for the rest of the year, last year's runner-up Nick Kyrgios battling for fitness and world number one Alcaraz inexperienced on grass despite his Queen's Club success, few will look past Djokovic as favourite to lift the trophy.

The Serbian's only limitation could be a lack of practice in another stop-start season, with the exhibition tournament at Hurlingham his only tune-up for the year's third Grand Slam.

Djokovic has triumphed at the All England Club in the last four editions, excluding 2020 when the grasscourt Grand Slam was not held due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and has a chance to now equal Roger Federer's men's record of eight Wimbledon titles.

## Swiatek Cruises Past Teichmann

**BERLIN (Dispatches)** - World number one Iga Swiatek showed her resourcefulness under pressure as she beat Jil Teichmann 6-3, 6-1 in the Round of 16 at the Bad Homburg Open.

The Swiss player put Swiatek under early pressure and had three break points in the Pole's opening service game, which lasted 18 points. Swiatek, fresh from her third French Open title, held.

After that, Swiatek dominated on serve until the last game when she saved two more break points.

Swiatek made the breakthrough in the fifth game when she surprised Teichmann into an error with a between-the-legs shot.

Chasing back to reach a lob at 30-40, Swiatek opted to hit a tweener and even though the shot was short, Teichmann sliced her return out.

After that, Swiatek cruised until the final game of the match.

Swiatek has long struggled on grass. She has never gone beyond the fourth round at Wimbledon, having made at least the semi-finals of every other major.

"I think it's my first grass-court quarter-final, so pretty excited," Swiatek said on court. "For sure, today was a good day. I was happy with my performance. I felt like I had everything under control and that's great." In the quarter-finals, Swiatek will face Anna Blinkova, who beat Leylah Fernandez 7-5, 6-2.

In other matches, Lucia Bronzetti outlasted fourth-seeded Mayar Sherif 1-6, 7-6 (7/2), 6-3 in 2 hours 51 minutes and Katerina Siniakova beat Evgeniya Rodina 6-2, 6-4.

## Tennis Should Not Pursue Saudi Investment

**LOS ANGELES (Dispatches)** - Seven-time Grand Slam singles champion John McEnroe said tennis should not seek Saudi investment and called golf's PGA Tour hypocritical after it reached an agreement with the country's sovereign wealth fund.

Earlier in June, the PGA Tour, DP World Tour and rival LIV circuit, which previously engaged in a bitter fight that divided golf, announced a merger to form a unified commercial entity.



His former coach Boris Becker, however, has no doubt the ageless Serbian is already in a league of his own.

"Every generation had its stars. It would be unfair to now say one is better than the other. But in any case, he's the most successful," former Wimbledon champion Becker said.

"That determination, ambition, passion. What we have seen in the end, how easily he beats the guys. The young guys are tired, not the 36-year-old."

"That's extraordinary ... 23 Grand Slams in an era where we had Federer, Nadal not to mention Andy Murray and Stan Wawrinka. No one would have expected this from him, except himself."

"He spoke about this dream he had as a boy. I believe that dream is far from being dreamt to its end."

Meanwhile Iga Swiatek will gear up for Wimbledon by staying open-minded about her prospects as the world number one bids to improve her modest record on a surface she has not fully mastered yet.

The 22-year-old Pole stamped her authority as the world's top player with a third French Open crown by beating Karolina Muchova this month to take her Grand Slam tally to four. While successful on clay and hardcourts, US Open champion Swiatek has not got past the last 16 at Wimbledon and saw her incredible 37-match winning run last year ended in the third round of the grasscourt Grand Slam by Alize Cornet.

Swiatek was keen to return to basics for the grasscourt swing, where the expectations placed on her are not as high.

"Before every grasscourt season, I just want to keep being open-minded and learn a lot," Swiatek told reporters after her French Open triumph.



**BARCELONA (Dispatches)** - World number five Stefanos Tsitsipas crashed out of the Mallorca Open in his first match with a 6-4, 3-6, 6-2 loss to Yannick Hanfmann, a worrying result ahead of Wimbledon.

Following another early exit on grass at the Halle Open last week the Greek was beaten convincingly by his German opponent, ranked 48th. The Wimbledon main draw begins on July 3.

Strong on his serve, Hanfmann did not face a single break point in the first set and only lost one service game in the match.

The German sealed his win against the erratic top seed with a forehand down the line.

"A lot of things have to work to beat a top 10 player, I had a really good start," said Hanfmann.

"With the wind and the grass, having a match on the first day was really helpful."

Hanfmann faces Feliciano Lopez, in his final competition before retirement, in the quarter-finals after the Spaniard's 7-6 (8/6), 1-6, 6-3 defeat of Australia's Jordan Thompson.

Christopher Eubanks surprised Ben Shelton 6-7 (4/7), 6-4, 7-6 (7/2) in an all-American battle earlier on.

France's Arthur Rinderknech eased past his compatriot Constant Lestienne 6-3, 6-2 and will face Eubanks in the last eight.



# Arsenal Sign Havertz From Chelsea

**LONDON (Dispatches)** - Arsenal have signed Germany forward Kai Havertz from Chelsea on a long-term contract, the Premier League club said.

The transfer fee has not been disclosed but British media reported Arsenal will pay Chelsea £65 million with an additional £5 million in add-ons.

"It's super exciting for me to be joining this amazing club and to be part of the Arsenal family. This club has such a big history, and I hope we can achieve lots of things," the 24-year-old told the club website.

Havertz joined Chelsea in September 2020 from Bundesliga side Bayer Leverkusen, where he had started his professional career.

"Kai is a player of top quality. He has great versatility and is an intelligent player. He will bring a huge amount of extra strength to our midfield and variety to our play,"

manager Mikel Arteta said.

Chelsea had paid up to £71 million, including add-ons, for the German forward, according to media reports, making him Chelsea's second-most expensive signing after goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga.

Havertz made nearly 140 appearances for Chelsea in all competitions scoring more than 30 goals, and helped them win the Champions League in 2020-21, as well as the UEFA Super Cup and Club World Cup in 2021.

"The German now moves on but leaves with his name etched into Chelsea folklore. We are grateful to Kai for his efforts throughout his time at Stamford Bridge and wish him well," Chelsea said in a statement.

Havertz has played almost 40 times for Germany after making his debut in a 2-1 friendly win over Peru in September 2018.

He was included in their squads for Euro 2020 and the 2022 World Cup, where he scored a brace in a 4-2 win over Costa Rica before Germany were knocked out in the group stage.

## Mourinho Handed 10-Day Suspension For Ref Criticism

**ROME (Dispatches)** - Jose Mourinho wore a microphone to "protect himself" when his AS Roma side faced Monza in May, but he could not resist a dig at the referee after the game and was handed a 10-day touchline ban.

Mourinho will miss his team's Serie A season opener due to the suspension and was also given a €50,000 fine for comments made towards referee Daniele Chiffi, the Italian FA said.

Mourinho strongly criticised Chiffi after Roma's 1-1 league draw against Monza, labelling him "the worst referee I have encountered in my entire career."

The 60-year-old Portuguese had gone into the game looking to do everything he could to avoid being sanctioned by the officials. "I'm not stupid, you know," Mourinho said at the time. "Today, I went to the game with a microphone. I recorded everything. From the moment I left the locker room, to the moment I returned. I protected myself."

Yet the former Chelsea and Real Madrid coach, who is no stranger to clashes with referees, still ended up in hot water for his comments after the match.

"I stopped working (talking) 20-30 minutes from the end because I knew he would give me a red card for anything. I didn't give him the opportunity, I decided no, that's enough," said Mourinho.



## Bayern Have Deal With Kane But Spurs Reject €70m Bid

**BERLIN (Dispatches)** - Bayern Munich have agreed personal terms with England captain Harry Kane, German daily Bild reported today, but an initial €70 million bid was rejected by Tottenham Hotspur.

The German champions are said to be intent on securing the signing of England's record scorer, whose contract with Spurs runs out in 2024. Kane's camp is believed to have approved the move, but Bayern need an agreement on a transfer fee with Tottenham to seal the transfer.

Bayern submitted an offer of €70 million plus add-ons for Kane, according to Bild, while Spurs are demanding at least €100 million to part with their talismanic striker.

Other top European clubs including Real Madrid and Manchester United are also said to covet Kane, who could look to move away from Tottenham in pursuit of silverware.

Kane thought he had sealed a £127 million move to Manchester City prior to the 2021/22 campaign only for Spurs chairman Daniel Levy to turn it down — despite the striker claiming they had a gentleman's agreement permitting him to move on.

However, with Kane turning 30 in July he sees time running out on his career to finally lift a trophy. Bayern are after a top-class striker to fill the hole left by Robert Lewandowski, who joined Spanish champions Barcelona in 2022.

