

President Ebrahim Raisi Welcomed the Promotion of International and Regional Interactions With Pakistan, Emphasizing That the Relations Between the Two Neighbors Are Rooted in Deep Cultural and Historical Familiarity

IRAN NEWS

Iran's Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi Puts the Number of People Who Voted in the Friday Parliamentary and Assembly of Experts Elections at 25m, Adding That Invalid Votes Made Up 5% of the Total Vote Count

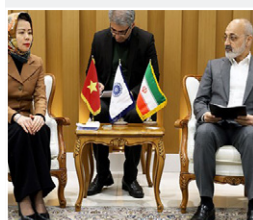
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200 Cyber Attacks Thwarted Ahead of Iran Elections



TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Head of Iran's Civil Defense Organization Brigadier General Gholam Reza Jalali said approximately 200 cyber-attacks, ranging from minor to significant, were successfully thwarted in the month leading up to the parliamentary elections in the country. During a TV broadcast, Jalali stated that ensuring cyber security during the recent elections, which required substantial online communication and identity verification, was a tough but effective endeavor. He added that three significant national events, namely the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, the night of mid-Sha'ban (the 15th day of the lunar month of Shaban, which commemorates the birth anniversary of the 12th Shiite imam, Imam Mahdi (AS)), and the elections, were all thoroughly secured. He emphasized the elections' successful conduct despite attempts at psychological warfare and media campaigns to deter participation. "However, the country's security focus ensured a very calm election with high levels of tranquility," Jalali noted. Jalali elaborated that the focus was primarily on identity verification, especially within the realm of communications and cyberspace. "We aimed for a communication establishment rate of 99.8%, which was achieved despite threats and the turbulent environment that existed," he explained. Regarding the cyber attacks, Jalali stated, "Within a month leading up to the elections, we witnessed nearly 200 cyber attacks of various kinds and magnitudes." "During this period, we encountered 4 or 5 major attacks, which were controlled and repelled by our colleagues in the security departments," Jalali continued. "Other attacks were effectively neutralized by the expert work of the communications ministry's specialists."

IAEA BoG Not to Issue Anti-Iran Resolution



TEHRAN (MNA) – Western diplomats have said that their respective governments will not seek an anti-Iran resolution at the quarterly meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors which kicked off on Monday. A quarterly meeting of the UN nuclear watchdog's main policy-making body began on Monday with Western powers again choosing not to seriously confront Iran over its failure to cooperate with the agency on a range of issues, diplomats said, according to Reuters. It is more than a year since the IAEA's 35-nation Board of Governors passed a resolution against Iran, which was followed by Tehran decisive reaction. Addressing the opening meeting of the Board of Governors earlier today, the IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi reiterated his call on Iran for full cooperation despite all Iran's cooperation with the Agency. Grossi said that "Iran's stockpile of enriched uranium continues to increase, even though the level of uranium enriched up to 60% has fallen slightly." Iran took some steps away from the 2015 nuclear deal known as the JCPOA after the illegal unilateral US withdrawal from the deal and the continued E3 participants' indifference to the illegal US sanction on Iran. Tehran has vowed that it will reverse course and will fully abide by the deal when the Western parties remove all the sanctions against it in accordance with the text of the JCPOA. Iran and the other parties to the nuclear deal were very close to concluding an agreement in September 2022 to revive the deal after the removal of sanctions on Tehran but the US government made excessive demands to bring to JCPOA revival talks to the current situation since pinning hope on the foreign provoked riots at the time. In relevant remarks, the Iranian foreign ministry's spokesman Nasser Kanaani said on Monday that Iran has not closed the diplomatic channels to revive the deal yet.

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK



Leader Hails Iranian Nations' Turnout in Elections

TEHRAN - The Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has hailed the Iranian nation's turnout in the recent elections for the parliament and the Assembly of Experts. Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks in a tree-planting ceremony on National Arbor Day on Tuesday. He also thanked the organizers of the elections and whoever assisted in holding the elections as glorious as possible, including the security forces. Ayatollah Khamenei said: "With their presence, the Iranian nation fulfilled both a social and civilizational duty and did a jihad." He referred to the enemies' attempts during the past year to discourage the people from going to the polls in the recent elections: "For about a year, the enemies of the Iranian nation and the enemies of Islamic Iran and the enemies of the Islamic Republic, from all over the world, tried to dissuade the people from participating in the elections and make the elections lackluster, but the people countered the enemy's move and made a great and epic move and it was a jihad." Ayatollah Khamenei also appreciated all those who contributed to the observation of the elections. He also pointed to the flood inundated the southern parts of Sistan and Baluchestan Province, southeastern Iran, and emphasized the continuation of the aid, both governmental and non-governmental, to the flood-hit areas. The leader called on those who have the ability to offer help to step in to assist the flood-hit area of the country. Referring to the flood in Sistan and Baluchestan province, Ayatollah Khamenei called for the continuation of providing relief services to the flood-hit areas. He then on the occasion of National Arbor Day planted three saplings, including an olive sapling representing the unique

resistance of the Palestinian nation, a cypress sapling and a fruit tree sapling, in his office premises. Earlier on Tuesday, President Ebrahim Raisi also planted a sapling on the occasion of National Arbor Day. During the ceremony, the Iranian President stressed the necessity and importance of protecting the environment. While planting a sapling in the Presidential Administration, the President described this day as a symbol of the importance of planting trees, protecting trees, and creating and maintaining green spaces and said, "Arbor Day is an excuse to remember the need to pay attention to tree planting and protection in order to create a healthy space, air and environment, and as a result, a lively and fun atmosphere for people." Raisi described this day as a symbol of the importance of planting trees, protecting trees, and creating and maintaining green spaces and said, "Arbor Day is an excuse to remember the need to pay attention to tree planting and protection in order to create a healthy space, air and environment, and as a result, a lively and fun atmosphere for people." Pointing out that the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution has personally taught us all about the good practice of planting saplings on Arbor Day and its importance and value in practice, the President added, "The importance of paying attention to the environment and green space is also in the teachings of Islam." Raisi emphasized that environmental protection policies and measures should be carefully observed in all water, land and forest areas and the like, and noted, "I hope that all officials of different departments and the people will take serious measures to protect the environment".

Iran Says Western Sanctions Killing Vulnerable Patients



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's top human rights official has blasted the countries that have imposed illegal sanctions on the nation, calling for them to account for committing "crimes against humanity." Kazem Gharibabadi, secretary of Iran's High Council for Human Rights, made the remarks on Monday at Tehran's Allameh Tabataba'i University, where a moot court was held simulating proceedings against the enforcers of unilateral bans and those who comply with them. "Sanctions constitute crimes against humanity because they violate the right to development, prosperity, education, housing, etc.," he said. "Those imposing extensive sanctions on Iran are committing crimes against humanity and should be held accountable for it," he added. Gharibabadi said, despite the country's capabilities in the field of medicine, Iran has witnessed deadly consequences for vulnerable groups of patients due to inhumane sanctions. He in particular pointed to the case of patients with rare diseases such as epidermolysis bullosa (EB) or butterfly patients. He also said that unilateral coercive measures are considered weapons of war due to their extensive impacts on target nations. "Sanctions are more destructive than conventional warfare and affect the entire population of the target country," he argued. The Iranian rights official further said that the US exerts pressure on various countries in order to bring them into the cycle of secondary sanctions against Iran. The so-called smart sanctions, which allegedly apply to specific individuals or entities, are just a slogan as they do not exempt food and medicines, he emphasized. Among those speaking at Monday's session was Alena Douhan, the UN special rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on human rights. She delivered a speech at the moot court via videoconference. Former US president Donald Trump pulled Washington out of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal in May 2018 and imposed severe economic sanctions on Tehran in what he called the "maximum pressure" campaign. Trump's successor, President Joe Biden, has retained the bans as leverage.

Iran Supports Constructive Dialogue Between Syria, OPCW

NEW YORK (IRNA) - Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran supports the continuation of constructive dialogue between Syria and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to address the remaining issues and bring the case to a final and definitive solution. Amir Saeed Irvani made the remarks on Monday in a meeting of the United Nations Security Council on the situation in the Middle East (Syria-Chemical). "The Islamic Republic of Iran once again condemns the use of chemical weapons in any place and time by anyone and under any circumstances in the strongest possible way," Irvani added. He further congratulated Japan on assuming the presidency of the Security Council this month. I acknowledge Guyana for its successful conclusion of the presidency in February. He also welcomed the presence of Mr. Adedeji Ebo, Deputy to the UN high representative for disarmament affairs at today's briefing. Addressing the meeting, Irvani said Iran once again condemns in the strongest possible terms the use of chemical weapons anywhere, by anyone, at any time, and under any circumstances. He added: "We underscore once more that any investigation into the use of chemical weapons must be impartial, professional, credible, and objective, and must fully comply with the requirements and procedures of the Chemical Weapons Convention." Irvani further said: "Equally crucial, the OPCW must be able to perform its duties in an impartial, professional, and objective manner to establish facts and develop evidence-based conclusions. We reiterate our call that the Convention must be implemented fully, effectively, and without discrimination." He noted "We believe that politicizing the application of the Convention and exploiting the OPCW for political reasons endangers the credibility of both the Organization and the Convention. Irvani stressed "As a committed party to the Convention, the Syrian Arab Republic continues to uphold its commitments and cooperate closely with the OPCW." He stated: "We call on certain countries to refrain from making baseless political accusations against Syria or premature judgments before the conclusion of such consultations. We support the continued constructive dialogue between Syria and the OPCW to address any remaining issues and bring the file to a final and conclusive resolution. We regret that certain Western countries have pursued the adoption of a contentious and politicized resolution during the 28th session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention." He concluded "This resolution, unfortunately, seeks to further the political agenda of certain states and comes at a crucial juncture when the Syrian government is diligently working towards improving humanitarian conditions and the provision of essential services."



Israel Seeks to Erode Resilience of Palestinians Against Occupation



NEW YORK (Dispatches) - A senior Iranian diplomat says Tehran is deeply concerned about Israel's plots to deliberately target humanitarian infrastructure to destroy resilience of the people of Palestine in the face of the regime's occupation. Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva, Ali Bahreini, made the remark while addressing the 55th session of the Human Rights Council on Monday. He condemned the killing of 150 United Nations staff members since the beginning of Israel's genocidal war in Gaza in October and said the world has not witnessed such a dire human rights situation over the past eight decades since Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territories. The Iranian diplomat added that the Israeli occupation forces are deliberately attacking hospitals and other facilities for the sick and wounded people, which has resulted in the collapse of the medical system in Gaza. The world has been shocked by the extent of the deliberate targeting of hospitals and medical and humanitarian staff in the Gaza Strip, he emphasized. Bahreini noted that the Israeli occupation forces have leveled accusations against some humanitarian agencies in Gaza and disrupted their activities, thus making the living conditions more difficult for the Palestinian people and forcing them to leave their homes. The Iranian ambassador called for the full implementation of an interim ruling by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) which urges Israel to stop its genocide in Gaza. Since October 7, at least 30,534 Palestinians, mostly women and children, have been killed and more than 71,920 injured as a result of the Israeli regime forces' continuous onslaught in the Gaza Strip. Israel has also imposed a crippling blockade on Gaza, leaving its population, particularly residents of northern Gaza, on the verge of starvation.

IRAN NEWS



Iran, Zimbabwe Ready to Expand Economical, Industrial Cooperation

TEHRAN (MNA) – The Head of Iran's Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO) in a meeting with the ambassador of Zimbabwe to Tehran emphasized Iran's readiness to deepen economic relations with Zimbabwe. Farshad Moghimi in a meeting with Bright Kupemba, the ambassador of Zimbabwe to Tehran said that Iran is ready to lay the ground for Zimbabwean trade delegations to visit Iran's industrial infrastructures and production units with a special focus on business communication between the two countries. Moghimi announced Iran's readiness to supply the products needed by Zimbabwe, saying that Zimbabwe can use the capabilities of Iran in different fields to provide technical and engineering services, industrial and agricultural machinery and equipment. Zimbabwe's Ambassador in Tehran, for his part, described Iran's industrialization model as an admirable model, adding that Zimbabwe would like to use Iran's experiences in the field of industrialization as an important priority to activate Zimbabwe's industrial capacities.

Exports to Uzbekistan Up 20% in 10 Months



TEHRAN (Tasnim) – An official at the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPOI) said the country's export of non-oil goods to Uzbekistan registered a 20-percent hike in the 10 months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2023 to January 22, 2024). The head of the Russia and Caucasus Office of the TPOI pointed to the visit by the Uzbek minister of energy and his accompanying delegation to Iran and expressed hope that this visit will bring about positive results for the expansion of the trade ties between the two countries. Akbar Godari referred to the achievements of a visit by Iran's Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade Abbas Aliabadi to the Republic of Uzbekistan last month and said the two sides agreed to pursue the implementation of the agreements inked between the two sides earlier. Uzbek Energy Minister Jurabek Mirzamakhmudov along with an accompanying delegation arrived in Iran on March 3 to hold talks with his Iranian counterpart, IRNA reported. Elsewhere in his remarks, Godari pointed to Iran's export of products to Uzbekistan and added that various types of polymer compounds, cables, aquatics, steel profiles, etc. were exported from Iran to Uzbekistan in 2023. In return, Iran imported cotton thread, potassium, cereals, legumes, pinto beans and silk thread from the Republic of Uzbekistan last year, he added. The TPOI official put the value of the trade exchanges between Iran and Uzbekistan from March 21, 2023, to January 22, 2024, at more than \$370 million. Iran exported more than \$270 million of non-oil goods to Uzbekistan, showing a 20% growth compared to the same period a year earlier. According to the statistics, Iran imported about \$100 million of products from the Republic of Uzbekistan in this period, he added.

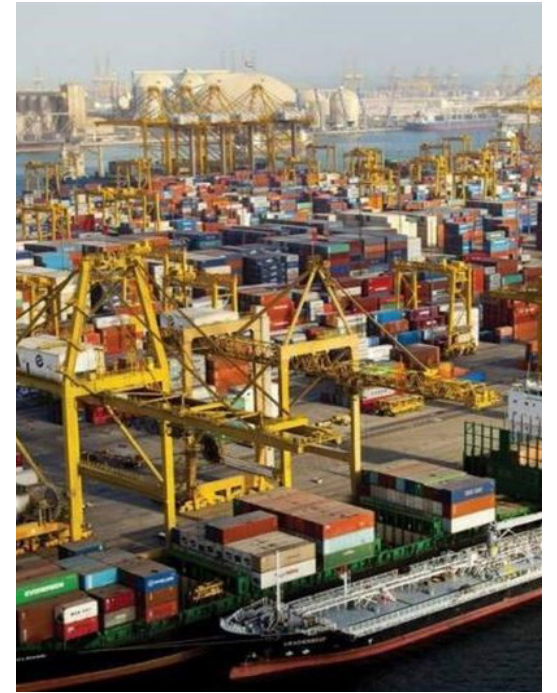


Tehran, Hanoi Urged to Launch Direct Flight

TEHRAN - Vice-President of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Qadir Qiafeh has stressed that the establishment of direct flights between Iran and Vietnam is regarded as the main step to increase the level of trade cooperation. He made the remarks in a meeting in Tehran on Monday with Vietnam's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Nguyen Minh Hang. Noting that the current \$150 million trade between Iran and Vietnam is far behind the potentials, he said that signing a preferential trade agreement can further increase bilateral exchanges. The Iran Chamber of Commerce vice president also referred to some problems on the way of financial transactions between Iran and Vietnam which he believed could be solved via barter trade. He said that Iran has unilaterally cancelled visa requirements for Vietnamese nationals and expects Hanoi to facilitate visa requirements for Iranian businesspeople introduced by the country's chamber of commerce. Pointing to the establishment of Iran-Vietnam Joint Chamber of Commerce, Qiafeh urged the need for forming a mirror chamber in Vietnam. He expressed the willingness of Iran Chamber of Commerce to dispatch a trade delegation to Vietnam and receive delegations from the country. Qiafeh noted that major exports of Iran to Vietnam are done via the third party country and Iran is ready to eliminate it and trade with Vietnam directly and to work

directly with Vietnamese companies. He also urged Vietnam to facilitate issuing required licenses for Iranian agro products in order that Iranian traders can export agro products to Vietnam. Then Hang, for her part, noted that her visit to Tehran was aimed at implementing the MoUs and agreements between the two countries, adding that chambers of commerce of both countries should plan for broadening these ties and cooperation especially in the fields of economy, agriculture and investments. Emphasizing that Iran and Vietnam have good potentials for joint cooperation, Hang said that they can boost cooperation in many fields especially in agriculture. She asked ICCIMA to introduce major Iranian importers from Vietnam and Vietnam would also do it and through it both countries can have better planning for enhancing cooperation. She said halal food is one of the fields that her country is willing to cooperate with Iran, adding that activities of Vietnam in the field of producing halal products are on the rise and Hanoi is keen to cooperate with Tehran in this field and knowing the capacities of Iran. Hang then pointed to the significance of exchange of information between the economic activists of the two countries and said that exchange of trade delegation, holding conferences and business forums are of the ways for increasing the information of economic activists for cooperation.

Iran in Talks with 21 Countries for Launching Joint FZs

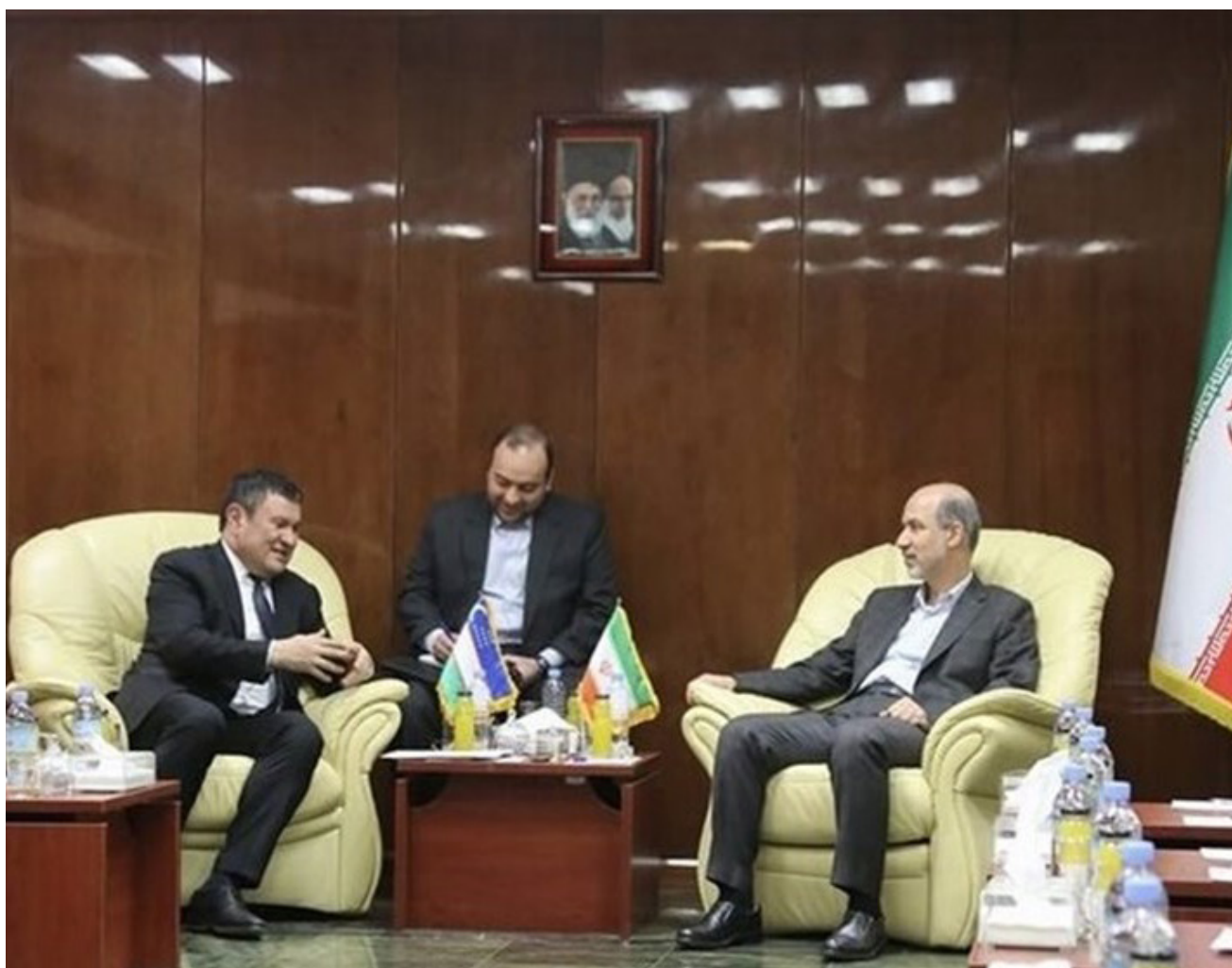


TEHRAN (IRNA) – The secretary of Iran's Supreme Council of Free Trade-Industrial and Special Economic Zones said the Islamic Republic is holding expert-level talks with 21 countries for setting up joint free zones. Hojjatollah Abdolmaleki said Iran has reached agreements with five countries, including Syria and Iraq, on launching joint free zones. The adviser to the Iranian president added that Iran seriously pursues the launching of joint free zones with other states. Iran is negotiating with 21 countries to set up joint free zones, he said, adding that the Islamic Republic has so far managed to agree with five countries within the framework of memorandums of understanding in line with launching the free zones. "We have held negotiations with the Iraqi and Syrian officials to launch joint free zones and the negotiating parties have voiced their readiness to cooperate with Iran in this field," Abdolmaleki noted. An investment jump will take place after the launch of the joint free zones, he continued. It will be in the interests of the three countries and will facilitate Iran's access to the Mediterranean region, he stated.

Iran to Expand Electricity Exchange With Neighbors

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Iran's energy minister said the ground has been provided for the country to exchange electricity with the neighboring states such as Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. Iran has the electricity exchange with most of its neighbors and can develop its relations with these neighbors optimally in this field, Ali Akbar Mehrabian emphasized. Speaking in a meeting with Uzbek Energy Minister Jurabek Mirzamakhmudov, Iran's minister of energy placed special emphasis on the development of the cooperation between Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan in the field of exchange of electricity. He pointed out that competent Iranian companies are ready to cooperate with Uzbekistan in implementing electrical projects, exporting electrical parts and equipment, constructing power equipment and constructing an

equipped production line for manufacturing electrical equipment. Following expert-level talks between the presidents of the two countries, the two sides agreed to promote economic, political, cultural and historical relations, he underlined, Mehr news agency reported. The two countries have high potential to expand their relations in all fields, he said, adding that Iran and Uzbekistan can cooperate in constructing thermal- and hydroelectricity power plants and exporting technical and engineering services, etc. in line with developing bilateral ties. The Uzbek minister of energy, for his part, said that Iran is among the top five countries in the region in the field of construction of power plants, adding that his country attaches great importance to enhancing its relations with Iran in all fields.



TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran has exported an almost \$7 billion worth of steel products in the 11 months to late February, according to a report by the Iranian Steel Producers Association (ISPA). An ISPA report published on Monday said that the figure shows a 20% year-on-year growth. It also said that Iran has exported as much as 27 million tons of steel products in the mentioned period which is indicative of a 68% surge in terms of tonnage when compared to figure reported in last year's corresponding period. Iran has also posted a 30% rise in the exports of slab and a 5.8% increase in the exports of rebar both in terms of tonnage, according to the report. It added that the country has witnessed a significant 800% rise in the exports of iron ore concentrate in the period under review.



Many Issues Related to Sistan and Baluchestan Flooding Resolved

TEHRAN (IP) - The Spokesman for Iran's Government said many issues created by the recent floods in the country's southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan such as electricity and water outages have been resolved and some problems are being resolved. Speaking at his weekly presser on Tuesday morning, the Government Spokesman told the reporters: "From the beginning of this week, the Nowruz headquarters inaugurated and the necessary planning has been done to serve people on Nowruz trips." Ali Bahadori Jahromi also appreciated the Iranian nation on their turnout in the parliamentary and Assembly of Experts election saying: "I thank and appreciate all the people and the great nation of Iran, especially those who participated in the recent elections." He noted: "People's participation in elections doubles the burden of officials. And we hope that the complaints of the loved people of Iran who did not participate in the elections for any reason will be resolved as soon as possible." Bahadori Jahromi also talked about the measures and relief services done to reach out to the people whose lives have been affected by the recent flood in Sistan and Baluchistan in South Eastern Iran saying: After the occurrence of flood, the Minister of Interior and the minister of energy traveled to the flood-hit areas. "In addition to the fact that the flood caused financial damage, many issues such as electricity and water outages have been resolved and some problems are being resolved," he added.

Trump Wins North Dakota Caucus Ahead of Super Tuesday Vote

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Donald Trump won the North Dakota Republican presidential caucuses on Monday, according to a projection by Edison Research, ahead of a slew of contests known as Super Tuesday when he is expected to further strengthen his grip on the party's presidential nomination.



China Sets Ambitious 5% Growth Target for 2024



BEIJING (Dispatches) - China set on Tuesday a growth target of around five percent for 2024, an ambitious objective analysts said would be a challenge to meet given the severe headwinds battering the world's second-largest economy.

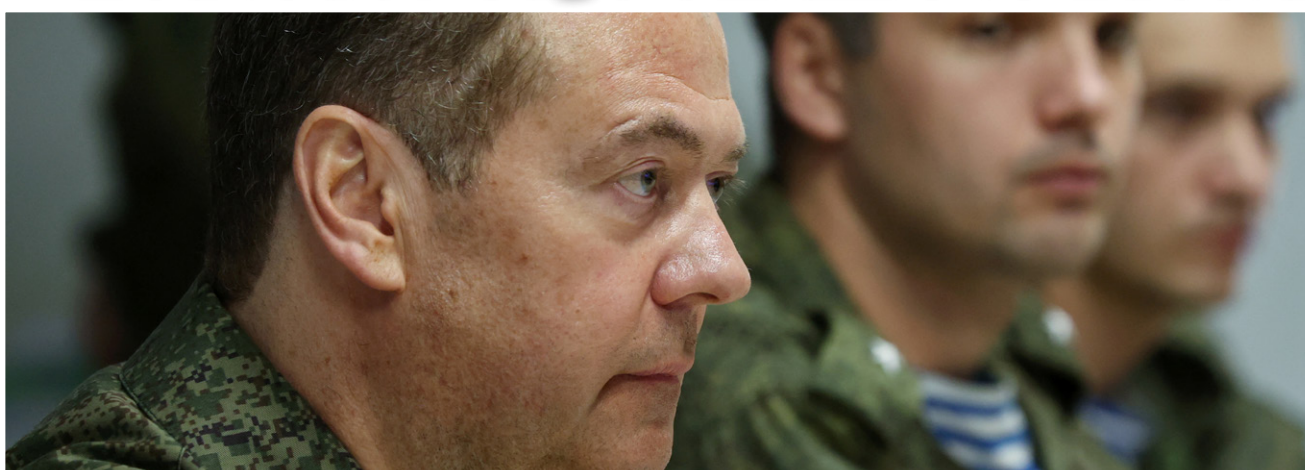
Diplomatic Push for Israel-Hamas Ceasefire Intensifies



GAZA STRIP (Dispatches) - International mediators and Hamas delegates were in Cairo Tuesday for talks to try to secure a pause in the war in Gaza ahead of the start of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

impooverished country?" said Nader Abu Shanab, pointing to the rubble with blackened hands. Tensions between Israel and the United Nations erupted Monday, with Israel recalling its ambassador over the handling of allegations of sexual assault by Hamas militants during the October attack.

Medvedev Says Ukraine Is Russia



MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Dmitry Medvedev, deputy chairman of Russia's Security Council and an ally of President Vladimir Putin, described Ukraine on Monday as part of Russia and said what he called historical parts of Russia needed to "come home."

internationally recognized territory. The map appeared to depict a scenario where Ukraine would be squeezed up against Poland, with Kyiv remaining its capital, but Russia would be in control of a swath of Ukrainian cities and its east, south and entire Black Sea coastline.



OPEC+ to Consider Extending Voluntary Oil Output Cuts

DAKAR (Dispatches) - Several hundred people rallied in the Senegalese capital Dakar on Saturday calling for the country's postponed presidential elections to be held before April 2, the date when incumbent Macky Sall's term is set to end.

North Korea Denounces South Korea-U.S. Military Drills

SEOUL (Dispatches) - North Korea's defense ministry urged South Korea and the United States to stop military drills, saying they are rehearsals of war and warning of consequences, KCNA reported on Tuesday.



activities to strongly control the unstable security environment." South Korea's defense ministry dismissed the North's statement, saying the exercises are defensive and meant to fend off the North's provocations and aggression.



Grizzlies Edge Nets, Snap Five-Game Skid

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Luke Kennard scored a season-high 25 points as the Memphis Grizzlies held on in the final minute and snapped a five-game losing streak with a 106-102 victory over the Brooklyn Nets in New York. A week after absorbing a 111-86 loss to the Nets in Memphis, the Grizzlies won for just the third time in 17 games thanks to Kennard. He was one of six Memphis players who scored in double figures. Kennard made a season-high six 3-pointers, including one from top of the key that gave the Grizzlies a 99-90 lead with three minutes left. He shot 8-for-11 overall, 6-for-9 from long range, handed out seven assists and scored at least 20 points for the first time this season. After Kennard's final triple, the Nets pulled within 103-99 on two free throws by Cameron Johnson with 30 seconds left. Following a five-second violation by Memphis, Dennis Schroder split two free throws with 20.9 seconds to go to make it 103-100. Two free throws by Mikal Bridges got Brooklyn within 105-102 with 6.7 seconds left before Kennard hit a free throw on the next possession to ice it. Jake LaRavia added 14 points and 10 rebounds for the Grizzlies, who dominated the glass throughout the game and finished with a commanding 50-33 rebounding edge. Lamar Stevens added 13 points, Santi Aldama finished with 12, Vince Williams Jr. contributed 11 and Trey Jemison had 10 for the Grizzlies, who shot 46.3 percent overall. Nic Claxton scored 21 points, but Brooklyn fell 2 1/2 games behind the 10th-place Atlanta Hawks for the Eastern Conference's final play-in spot. Johnson added 18 points as the Nets dropped to 3-4 under

interim coach Kevin Ollie, shot 44.3 percent from the field and were a dreadful 17-for-30 (56.7 percent) at the foul line. Bridges was held to 14 points and shot 4-for-14 after getting 38 points in Brooklyn's win over Atlanta on Saturday. Schroder and Lonnie Walker IV added 13 points apiece for the Nets, who were denied their first three-game winning streak since early December. After the Grizzlies took a 53-52 lead into halftime following a basket by Stevens with 15.6 seconds remaining in the second quarter, Kennard's triple put the Grizzlies ahead 71-63 with 5:53 remaining in the third quarter. Claxton's baseline dunk snapped a 75-75 tie with 2:07 left in the third, but a 12-footer by Stevens with 73 seconds left put Memphis ahead 80-77 entering the fourth. Meanwhile Rudy Gobert scored 25 points and grabbed 16 rebounds for the Minnesota Timberwolves, who held on for a 119-114 win over the Portland Trail Blazers in Minneapolis. Mike Conley added 19 points and seven assists for Minnesota, which snapped a two-game skid. Karl-Anthony Towns finished with 14 points. Anfernee Simons led Portland with 34 points and 14 assists. Rookie Duop Reath tallied a career-high 26 points on 10-for-14 shooting for the Trail Blazers, who lost for the first time in three games. Portland played without Jerami Grant (quadriceps), Deandre Ayton (hand) and Matisse Thybulle (hip). Timberwolves top scorer Anthony Edwards finished with 13 points on 4-of-10 shooting. Edwards left the game because of a right elbow contusion but later returned to the court.

Rublev Calls on ATP to Review Rule That Led to Default in Dubai



LONDON (Dispatches) - Andrey Rublev has called on the ATP Tour to change the rule that led to him being defaulted at the Dubai Tennis Championships last week. Rublev was defaulted by the chair umpire after a Russian-speaking official said he had used an obscenity while yelling at a line judge over a call during his semi-final with Kazakhstan's Alexander Bublik on Friday. Rublev denied the accusation and urged the officials to review video of the incident, a request which was rejected. Bublik was ahead 6-7(4) 7-6(5) 6-5 when he was awarded the win but world number five Rublev later successfully appealed the decision and will retain the ranking points and prize money he earned, barring a fine of \$36,400 for a code violation. In a post on Instagram, Rublev thanked the appeals committee but said the rules needed a rethink. "I hope that in the future, the ATP will take a closer look at this rule and make changes to it, so that an official can't force a match outcome without having clear evidence and not letting the player have a video review," Rublev said. Reuters has contacted the ATP for comment. "While I'm disappointed that I wasn't able to finish my semi-final in Dubai, I am grateful for all the support I had from you the last two days, I received a lot of messages," Rublev added.

Arsenal Hit Sheff Utd for Six to Set Record Scoring Streak

LONDON (Dispatches) - Arsenal entered the record books as a 6-0 demolition of Sheffield United on Monday kept the Gunners on Liverpool and Manchester City's tails in the Premier League title race. Martin Odegaard, Jayden Bogle's own goal, Gabriel Martinelli, Kai Havertz and Declan Rice put the visitors 5-0 at half-time before Ben White rounded off the scoring. Mikel Arteta's men become the first side to ever win three consecutive away games in the English top-flight by five or more goals. "When we had the ball, we were in a good mood today," said Arsenal captain Odegaard. "Created a lot, scored the goals early on - a nice performance." By contrast, Sheffield United also set a new record by becoming the first English top-flight side to concede five or more goals in three straight home matches. "They were in a different league, a different planet to us. We couldn't lay a glove on them." Arsenal's stunning streak of 31 goals in seven consecutive Premier League wins since a winter break has at least built up a big advantage over their rivals should the title be decided on goal difference. They remain in third, just two points behind leaders Liverpool and one adrift of defending champions City. However, Arteta's men can go top with victory at home to Brentford on Saturday ahead of Sunday's showdown between Liverpool and City at Anfield. "I love the way the team played. The quality and the aggression we showed from the beginning," said Arteta. "We have to continue to do what we are doing." There appeared little doubt over the outcome from the first whistle at Bramall Lane. Bukayo Saka rattled the crossbar after just two minutes and what little resistance there was from the Blades ended just five minutes in. Rice's cross picked out the unmarked Odegaard to turn into the bottom corner. Saka's five-game scoring streak in the league came to an end but he did bag two assists before going off at half-time due to illness. The England international turned former Arsenal defender Austin Trusty with ease as he got to the by-line and his driven cross flicked off Bogle into his own net. Martinelli's deflected effort quickly made it 3-0 and forced Wilder to make a change after just 17 minutes.



Inter Beat Genoa to Take Further Step Towards Serie A Title



MILAN (Dispatches) - Serie A leaders Inter Milan beat Genoa 2-1 to move 15 points clear of second-placed Juventus as they search for a 20th league title. Youngster Kristjan Asllani and veteran Alexis Sanchez scored within six minutes of each other in the San Siro as Inter move closer to going one better than local rivals AC Milan and their Scudetto tally, which would get them a second star above their club badge. Juve trail Inter with 11 games of the season remaining after losing 2-1 at Napoli on Sunday. "15 points is a significant advantage," Asllani said. "But we can't get carried away, there are still a lot of games to play and we have to stay focused," the 21-year-old added. Simone Inzaghi's Inter were looking to stretch their winning run in all competitions to 12 games, and last lost at home in the league in September. In an open first half an hour, Inter midfielder Nicolo Barella and Genoa attacker Mateo Retegui threatened to break the deadlock. After 31 minutes, Asllani did one better than them following a smooth Alexis assist. Albania's Asllani, who turns 22 on Saturday, fired home into the top corner, claiming his first senior goal since June 2022, which came against Inter when he was still at Empoli, to put the hosts 1-0 up. "To be honest, I had waited a long time for this goal and hoped it would come at San Siro," Asllani said. "It's a special emotion scoring here," he said. Inzaghi's outfit doubled their advantage six minutes later from a penalty checked by VAR, as Alexis converted Inter's 11th spot kick of the season, following Asllani in opening his account for the campaign. Inter kept up the pressure on Genoa after the break with attacker Henrikh Mkhitaryan troubling visiting goalkeeper Josep Martinez after 52 minutes before the away side surprisingly cut the deficit. Mexico centre-back Johan Vasquez volleyed low past Yannic Sommer two minutes later, as Inter conceded just their 13th goal in 27 league games this season. Alberto Gilardino's side thought they had equalised after 66 minutes but Portuguese striker Vitorinha was denied his first goal for the club after drifting offside. Inter held on for three points, as France attacker Marcus Thuram came off the bench for Sanchez after two weeks out with injury, despite English defender Djed Spence's late chance for the visitors. Next up for Inter is Saturday's trip to fourth-placed Bologna before heading to Atletico Madrid for March 13's Champions League last 16 second leg with a 1-0 lead.

Djokovic, Nadal Return at Indian Wells

LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - Novak Djokovic returns to Indian Wells for the first time in five years seeking a record sixth title while Coco Gauff looks to become the first U.S. woman to win the tournament since Serena Williams in 2001 when main-draw action begins on Wednesday. The Serbian winner of 24 Grand Slam titles hasn't competed at the BNP Paribas Open since 2019 due to U.S. travel restrictions related to COVID-19. But he has looked relaxed in Southern California the past few weeks, catching Lakers and LA Galaxy games and training at UCLA. Feeling no pressure could make Djokovic even more lethal, said Paul Annacone, who coached Roger Federer and Pete Sampras and is a commentator with Tennis Channel. "With some people you can say relaxation can lead to complacency but not for him, not with his personality and his desire to compete," Annacone told Reuters. "Relaxation for Novak should lead to more joy, which should mean more fun. And joy and fun with that great talent tends to equal winning." Also back after missing last year's event is Nadal, who has 22 Grand Slam titles and three Indian Wells crowns. The Spaniard has suggested that his career might be coming to a close and said he just wants to negotiate the desert event "unscathed" so he stays healthy for the clay court season. Nadal returned to competition in Brisbane in January after almost a year sidelined

with a hip flexor injury, but had to miss the Australian Open with another muscle tear. Meanwhile the next generation continues to make inroads. A successful title defense for Carlos Alcaraz would provide a huge boost in confidence for Nadal's 20-year-old compatriot. "To go back-to-back would be spectacular," Annacone said. A title at the event sometimes nicknamed the "fifth Slam" would be confirmation that 22-year-old Italian Jannik Sinner's maiden Grand Slam title in Australia in January was no fluke. Russian hard-court specialist Daniil Medvedev, dangerous Dane Holger Rune and American 2022 champion Taylor Fritz are among the other men who should prove tough to beat. On the women's side, defending champion Elena Rybakina comes to the desert full of confidence after winning Abu Dhabi last month. "It's going to be playing quick through the air, the courts tend to be gritty, which will work with her great serve and power tennis," Annacone said. There was something of a Big Three developing in the women's game with Rybakina, world number one and 2022 champion Iga Swiatek and reigning two-time Australian Open champion Aryna Sabalenka separating themselves from the pack. But U.S. Open champion Gauff and world number five Jessica Pegula would love to break up the party with a title to end a long drought for American women at Indian Wells.

