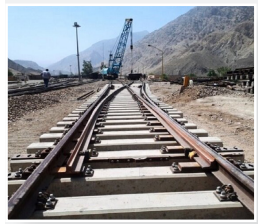


Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Says the Country Has Managed to Break Monopoly in the Nuclear Industry as Its Homegrown Products and Services Are Today Traded in the Global Market

IRAN NEWS

Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, Ezzatollah Zarghami Announced a 50.8% Increase in the Number of Foreign Tourists Visiting the Country in the Past Iranian Calendar Year Ending on March 19, Compared to the Same Period Last Year

2 DOMESTIC

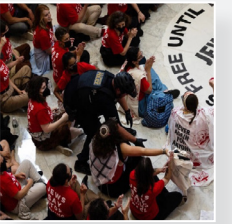


Russians Announces Initial Price for Rasht-Astara Railway Project

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3 INTERNATIONAL

Demonstrators Stage Wave of Protests Against U.S. Military Aid to Israel



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Israel's Nuclear Weapons Biggest Threat to World Peace

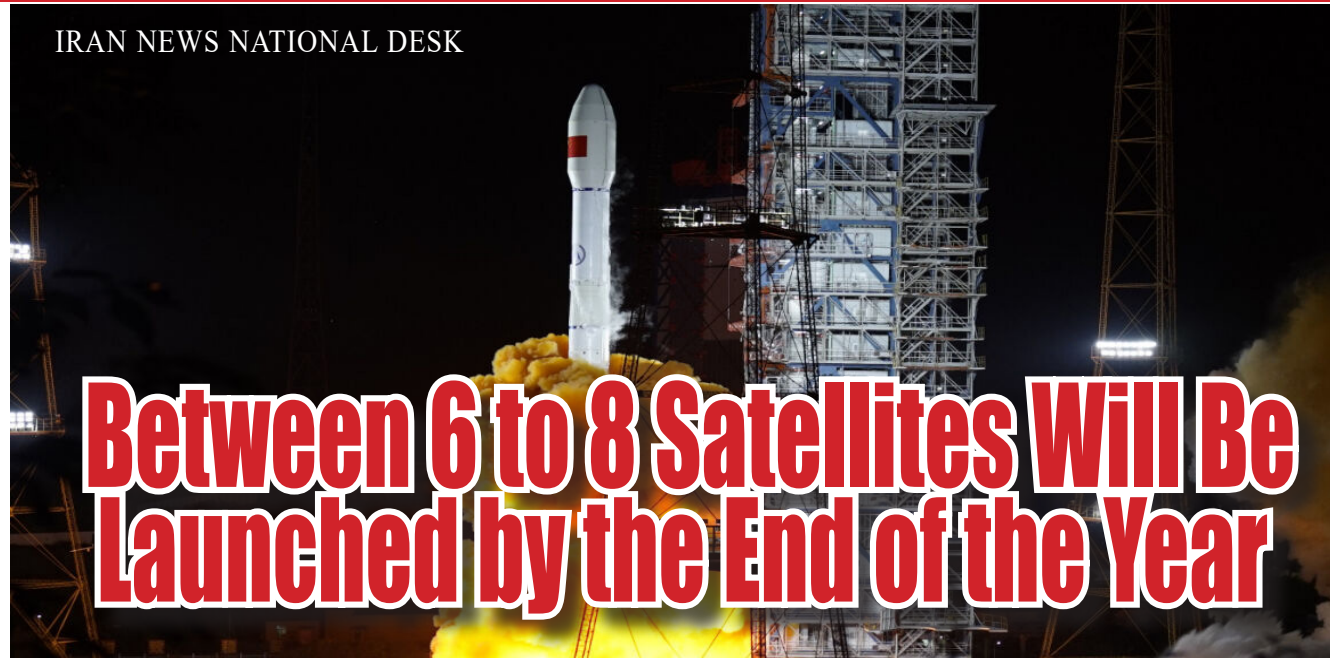


TEHRAN 9Dispatches) – Iran says Israel's nuclear weapons are the biggest threat to peace and security in West Asia and the world.

On Tuesday, Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to the UN office in Geneva remarked during a UN Review conference on the treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, also known as NPT.

Ali Bahraini said the growing Israeli threat arises from double standards by the US and the West in supporting the regime's nuclear arms program. He described the existence of the Israeli regime's nuclear weapons program as the most important factor preventing the formation of a nuclear-weapon-free Middle East and stated, "The nuclear weapons of this regime are a danger to Peace and security of the region and the world." Israel is estimated to possess 200 to 400 nuclear warheads in its arsenal, making it the sole possessor of non-conventional arms in West Asia. It has refused to either allow inspections of its nuclear facilities or sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). He criticized the double standards by some nuclear countries, especially the United States and its Western allies, and their support for the regime's nuclear weapons program. Bahraini also slammed Washington's unilateralism as the main obstacle to the full implementation of the Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), which threatens the future of the treaty and its ultimate goal of creating a world free of nuclear arms. "As long as these nuclear policies and programs of nuclear weapons countries continue and more countries, especially under the NATO nuclear umbrella, rely more and more on nuclear weapons, there will be no progress in nuclear disarmament in the world," he said. "It is expected that we will see the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its dimensions," he said. Bahraini emphasized the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear program, adding that Tehran was committed to the NPT goals. Bahraini said that safeguarding the security of people through eliminating the threats posed by nuclear weapons is the main objective of the NPT. "Maintaining the Treaty's credibility and legitimacy depends on the attainment of this objective," he said. "To have a successful review process, the status of implementation of all provisions of the Treaty across its three pillars should be assessed and reviewed in a balanced manner," Bahraini said.

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK



Between 6 to 8 Satellites Will Be Launched by the End of the Year

TEHRAN - Head of the Iranian Space Agency Hassan Salariyeh said in a press conference today, which outlined the progress of space projects and the plan for the year 1403 (2024) held at the Secretariat of the Supreme Space Council, that the most significant event in Iran's space industry over the past three years was the revival of the Supreme Space Council. He noted that this council is the highest policy-making authority in the country's space sector, with its first meeting held in Azar 1400 (December 2021), the second in 1401 (2022), and the third in Khordad of the current year (June 2024) with the presence of the acting president. Salariyeh stated that important issues were discussed at the first meeting of the Supreme Space Council, and many projects were initiated. At the second meeting, a ten-year plan was approved, and the third meeting provided a report on the status of these projects and assigned tasks to various agencies. He added that the establishment of the Supreme Space Council's Secretariat, the formulation of the program, and monitoring the plans were the outcomes of these council meetings. Salariyeh mentioned that over the past three years, infrastructure projects in Iran's space industry have commenced and concluded, with the most notable being the Chabahar Spaceport. Although the land for this spaceport had been allocated to the Space Agency for ten years, no action had been taken until now. He announced that the Chabahar Spaceport is planned in three phases, with the first phase expected to be operational by the end of the year and its first launch to take place. He noted that the activation of the Chabahar Spaceport will provide access to orbits with various inclinations. The head of the Iranian Space Agency also reported the

construction of a class one-ton laboratory, which will have its physical infrastructure ready by the end of the year. The existence of such a laboratory will lead to increased satellite production, improved satellite quality, and the development of high-mass satellites. He also announced the launch of the domestic Kowsar satellite in Aban 1403 (November 2024), which was constructed by the private sector. During the 13th government, the private sector became active in equipment and systems procurement, leading to significant contracts. Salariyeh revealed that the design of the Shahid Soleimani satellite constellation has been completed, and a test launch is scheduled for this year, with the hope of conducting main launches next year. The head of the Space Agency indicated that there will be 6 to 8 domestic and foreign launches this year, though this number may vary. He mentioned two major upcoming domestic launches: one involving the orbital transfer block (Saman 1) and the other a research satellite, both scheduled for Mordad (July) of the current year. He also stated that there will be two foreign launches this year, with the Tolos 3 and Zafar 2 satellites to be launched with foreign launch vehicles in Azar and Dey 1403 (December 2024 and January 2025). Salariyeh continued that 2 to 3 additional domestic launches will occur in the fall and winter, with details and specifics to be announced later. Finally, the head of the Space Agency mentioned that the Pars 2 satellite will be launched soon. This satellite is an upgraded version of the Pars 1, with modifications made to its data management algorithms.

Country Cannot Be Run by One Faction or Group



TEHRAN – The President-elect says that our first step is to select a national unity cabinet and said: "We need to form a cabinet with honest, experienced, and knowledgeable individuals, and move towards the general policies of the Supreme Leader."

Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian met with members of his popular committees Tuesday in the Ministry of Interior Hall.

In the meeting he said: "When I see your enthusiasm, I feel a heavy burden on my shoulders, which is hard to bear. One of my problems is that everyone wants to meet with me; how should I respond to everyone?"

He added: "I am still the same person I was before; becoming President has not changed me. Many complain that I have lost myself, but I swear I have no night or day."

Dr. Pezeshkian stated: "Selecting officials has become a dilemma for me. When I ask people to suggest candidates, everyone proposes themselves. The first step is to select a national unity cabinet, and that is the slogan we raised—that the country cannot be run by just one faction or group. We must adhere to this, and as a result, we need to form a cabinet with honest, experienced, and knowledgeable individuals, and move towards the general policies of the Supreme Leader." He continued: "Whatever happens and whoever wants a position, we will all agree on one principle, and if it contradicts this, it will not be acceptable: that is the satisfaction of the people." Dr. Pezeshkian said: "In any sector, if someone wants to provide a service, they must satisfy the applicant and leave with their approval. Therefore, the satisfaction of the people is our management benchmark. Whether we succeed or fail depends on what people will say about us." He added: "If we want to stay strong and deliver a solid blow to them, we must unite within the country, join hands, and show our dignity and pride to the world." He continued: "Producers and experts must be present and we must respect them. We can steer the ship to safety, but if we remove any of these elements, we will definitely face problems." He said: "They do not want us to be independent. The first step is to be united within the country, to pursue the truth, including individual, social, ethnic, religious, and gender rights." He reiterated that the first step is unity and the second step is to pursue the truth.

Iran Calls for Banning Israeli Athletes From Paris Olympics Over Regime's Gaza Genocide



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran has condemned Israel's participation in the Olympic Games Paris 2024 over its months-long genocidal war against Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip, calling for a ban on the regime's Olympic delegation from the games. In a post on its official account on X, the Iranian Foreign Ministry lashed out at the "reception and protection" of Israeli Olympians in the quadrennial games starting in the French capital this week over the occupying regime's brutal war on the blockaded Palestinian strip. "Announcing the reception & protection of the Apartheid & terrorist Zionist regime's convoy only means giving legitimacy to the child killers. They do not deserve to be present at the Paris Olympics because of the war against the innocent people of #Gaza," the ministry said on X. Announcing the reception & protection of the Apartheid & terrorist Zionist regime's convoy only means giving legitimacy to the child killers. The Israeli delegation to the Olympic Games Paris 2024 arrived in the French capital on Monday before Friday's opening ceremony and was immediately placed under 24-hour tight protection by France's police force. Israeli Olympians arrived in Paris amid mounting international outrage over the high Palestinian civilian casualty toll and unfolding appalling humanitarian crisis in the besieged and bombarded Palestinian territory. The Iranian Foreign Ministry also called on organizers to ban Israel. The Olympic Games Paris 2024, scheduled in France from July 26 to August 11, kicks off with an opening ceremony along the Seine River in Paris with athletes paraded in barges sailing down the stream. It is unclear whether the Israeli team will take part in this event. However, the Israeli regime's football team is slated for a match against the Malians in Paris's Parc des Princes stadium on Wednesday, two days before the Friday opening parade. French law enforcement agencies are ordered to provide 24-hr protection to the Israeli Olympics team amid Gaza genocide protests. Late last week, CBS News interviewed Mark Perlmuter, an orthopedic surgeon from North Carolina, and vice president of the International College of Surgeons, who had volunteered in Gaza from the end of April through the first half of May.

CBI Managed to Reduce Overall Inflation by 10%



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The Governor of the Central Bank Mohammad Reza Farzin said in the last meeting of the 13th government cabinet: "In the field of monetary variables since 2018, after the new sanctions imposed on Iran's economy, we experienced a chain of inflation, an increase in the exchange rate, an increase in the money supply, and an increase in liquidity. In other words, we were stuck in a cycle of rising inflation and exchange rates, which led to inflation in monetary variables and producer inflation."

He added: "Our monetary variables, which were long-term in the 20% range, had entered the 40% range, and the growth of liquidity and the monetary base had entered the 40% range. Some of our variables, including inflation variables like producer inflation, had even exceeded 60%, and consumer inflation was in the 40% range. Therefore, we had distanced ourselves by about 20% from the long-term economic variables of the country, and forward-looking indicators had advanced by more than 20%. Hence, the expectation was that inflation would rise above 50%, and the growth of liquidity and the exchange rate would form in higher ranges."

Farzin stated: "Historically, our Gini coefficient was about 40%, reaching 42-43% at times or dropping to 38-39% due to certain policies. In rural areas, the Gini coefficient is better than in cities. Fortunately, in 2023, the Gini coefficient decreased to 36%, primarily due to several policies implemented."

He added: "With the popularization of subsidies and the increase in subsidies after the targeting of subsidies, the Gini coefficient sharply increased. Several factors caused this rise in the Gini coefficient, such as the distribution of vouchers to the people. Another reason is financial inclusion in the country, such as marriage

and childbirth loans, which have increased our financial inclusiveness, giving families access to necessary financial facilities under various conditions."

Farzin clarified: "We managed to reduce overall inflation by 10% and point-to-point inflation by 12%. The government's policy not only prevented an increase in inflation but also reduced point-to-point inflation to 30%, and according to the latest figure published by the Statistical Center, it has reached 32.4%. Our monetary policies, which had exceeded 40%, have now dropped to the 20% range. We also reduced the monetary base, which was above 40%, to below 25%."

The Governor of the Central Bank stated: "The 10-year average economic growth was half a percent, which increased to 4.5% during the 13th government. The 10-year average economic growth excluding oil was 1.2%, which rose to 4% during the 13th government. According to the World Bank's 2023 report, Iran's growth rate was 5%, the highest in the region. In that year, Saudi Arabia experienced negative growth, and Turkey had a growth rate of 4.5%."

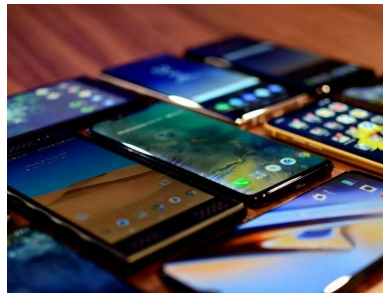
Regarding the foreign exchange policies of the 13th government, he said: "If we wanted to control the currency, one way was to intervene in the market and sell currency, which I believe has never worked in Iran and is a misguided approach. Therefore, we have tried not to use this experience. Fortunately, during the 13th government, both gold reserves and free reserves have increased. The reason for the increase in free reserves was that we managed to release part of our assets blocked in other countries through good relations. In 2023, the Central Bank allocated a total of \$68 billion, compared to about \$49-50 billion in 2021. Of the currency allocated in 2023, \$49 billion was allocated to production and import of raw materials, and \$10 billion to capital goods."

Iran Ready to Participate in the "BRICS Bridge" Project



TEHRAN - Mohsen Karimi, Deputy for International Affairs at the Central Bank, emphasized the need to use local currencies in trade exchanges among BRICS countries. He stated that reducing reliance on the US dollar and increasing the use of local currencies in economic and trade exchanges, utilizing a multilateral financial settlement scheme among BRICS members, and employing BRICS's fast and secure banking information exchange channels (bank messaging systems independent of SWIFT) have been underscored by BRICS members. He made these remarks at the third meeting of financial and central bank deputies from BRICS member countries. The meeting is taking place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, with some members participating virtually. In his address, Karimi outlined the Central Bank's policies on enhancing financial cooperation with BRICS member countries, highlighting the shared goal of reducing reliance on the dollar in trade and increasing the use of local currencies. He added that the Central Bank of Iran is supportive and ready to participate in the "BRICS Bridge" project. During a live video connection at the meeting, Karimi noted that issues related to the BRICS Bridge concept note, the multilateral financial settlement mechanism, and BRICS's fast and secure banking information exchange channels (bank messaging systems independent of SWIFT) are important to BRICS members. He emphasized that issues such as insufficient transparency, high costs, slow transaction speeds, and unfair access to cross-border payment channels are key reasons for the significance of the "BRICS Bridge."

IRAN NEWS



Gold Bar Imports Reaches 12 Tons in the First 4 Months

TEHRAN (ILNA) - Mohammad Rezvani-Far, Deputy Minister of Economy and Director General of Iran Customs, stated: The amount of gold bar imports in the first four months of last year was 3 tons and 36 kilograms, valued at \$197 million. He added: 93 percent of the weight of gold bar imports this year was carried out through Imam Khomeini Airport Customs. Rezvani-Far noted: Bashmaq, Tabriz, Mashhad, Isfahan Airport, Piranshahr, and Yazd customs were other customs offices that imported and cleared gold bars in the first four months of this year. It is worth mentioning that in December 2022, the government approved facilities for gold bar imports, and following this approval, gold bar imports into the country commenced.

Annual Inflation Rate Reaches 35.5%



TEHRAN - The Statistical Center of Iran announced the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the Iranian calendar month of Tir, indicating that in Tir of Iranian calendar year 1403 (June-July 2024), the annual inflation rate for households across the country reached 35.5%, a 0.6 percentage point decrease from the previous month.

In Tir 1403, the CPI for households across the country reached 255.2, showing a 2.2% increase from the previous month, a 32.2% increase compared to the same month last year, and a 35.5% increase over the twelve months leading up to the current month compared to the same period last year.

Point-to-point inflation refers to the percentage change in the price index compared to the same month last year. In Tir 1403, point-to-point inflation for households across the country was 32.2%, meaning that households spent on average 32.2% more in Tir 1403 than in Tir 1402 for the same "basket of goods and services." Point-to-point inflation in Tir 1403 increased by 0.3 percentage points compared to the previous month.

Monthly inflation refers to the percentage change in the price index compared to the previous month. In Tir 1403, the monthly inflation rate for households across the country was 2.2%. Monthly inflation for major groups "Food, Beverages, and Tobacco" was 1.6%, and for "Non-food Goods and Services," it was 2.5%.

The annual inflation rate refers to the percentage change in the average price index over the year leading up to the current month compared to the same period the previous year. In Tir 1403, the annual inflation rate for households across the country reached 35.5%, a 0.6 percentage point decrease from the previous month.

The national annual inflation rate in Tir 1403 was 35.5%, with variations among different expenditure deciles ranging from 31.6% for the first decile to 36.4% for the tenth decile. Accordingly, the inflation gap between deciles in this month reached 4.8 percentage points, a 0.4 percentage point decrease from the previous month (5.2 percentage points).

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK



Russians Announces Initial Price for Rasht-Astara Railway Project

TEHRAN - Kheirollah Khademi, CEO of the Construction and Development of Transportation Infrastructure Company, in an interview, discussed the financing of the Rasht-Astara railway project through a Russian loan or internal financing via oil barter. He stated that obtaining a Russian loan is beneficial for Iran due to its low interest rate. If the project is executed at a reasonable price, using the Russian loan is undoubtedly the better option. However, if the project is carried out at an unreasonable price, the Russian loan would not be cost-effective.

He continued by noting that the final price of the project has not yet been determined, which is why the commercial contract has not been concluded yet, a process that naturally takes time.

The Deputy Minister of Roads and Urban Development further mentioned that if the Russian loan is not utilized, the alternative is to seek approval from the leadership for financing through oil barter.

Khademi emphasized that without the Russian loan, Russia's involvement in the project is essentially meaningless. The primary reason for Russia's participation is to secure project financing; otherwise, there are no deficiencies in Iran's technical ability to execute the project. Even with Russian involvement, the majority of the project's infrastructure and technical structures will be handled by

the Iranian side.

The CEO added that it is customary for lending countries to also undertake part of the project execution. One of the main challenges for the Rasht-Astara railway project is securing funding, and negotiations with Russia have been based on them providing this financing.

In response to a question about whether Russia would be excluded from the project if Russian financing is canceled for any reason, the Deputy Minister explained that the delay in concluding the commercial contract between Russia and Iran is due to the lengthy administrative processes in both countries. Additionally, both sides must agree on a commercial contract, with the Russian side needing to present the final price to reach a final agreement. While the initial price recently announced was favorable, the final price assessment is pending due to the lack of land allocation, which requires finalizing the project map. Once the land is secured and the detailed map is ready, the final price can be evaluated and announced.

He concluded by mentioning that the Ministry of Economy is responsible for evaluating the interest on the Russian loan, which has been reported to be favorable on an international scale.

60% Increase in Oil Production in the 13th Gov't



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Oil Minister announced a 60% increase in oil production in the thirteenth administration, stating that oil production has risen from 2.2 million barrels per day in 2020 to 3.6 million barrels per day currently. Additionally, 16 million cubic meters of flaring gas have been collected so far, which is expected to reach 30 billion cubic meters. Javad Owji, in his report to the government, mentioned that at the start of the administration, there were 87 million barrels of gas condensates and 20 million barrels of heavy and ultra-heavy oil stored on water, which filled our storage reserves and reduced gas production. However, by neutralizing the sanctions, we managed to sell this quantity, whereas the previous administration had purchased 12 VLCC ships for storage, costing \$465 million annually. He added that currently, this amount of gas condensates is being converted into products in 37 mini refineries, creating added value and preventing crude selling. The Oil Minister stated that oil production increased by 60%, from 2.2 million barrels per day to 3.6 million barrels per day. In the area of flaring gas, 16 million cubic meters have been collected so far, expected to reach 30 billion cubic meters. Owji noted that the development of phase 2 of the Abadan refinery and phases 11 and 14 of South Pars were carried out with the support of domestic industry in this administration. In 2023, oil revenue collection amounted to \$28.4 billion, compared to \$9 billion in 2020. He mentioned that \$36 billion worth of projects were defined for optimization, and we managed to ensure a stable fuel supply in the country despite neutralizing cyber attacks, and effectively handled the country's foreign exchange provision.

The Minister continued that refinery capacity increased from 2.1 million barrels per day to 2.3 million barrels per day, gas production increased by 50 million cubic meters, and oil production percentage rose by 67%. Owji added that gasoline production reached 114 million liters per day, while gasoline consumption rose from 87 million liters per day to 123 million liters per day. Additionally, gas supply to industries reached 169

million cubic meters per day, and to power plants, it reached 300 million cubic meters per day.

He stated that our oil exports in 2019-2020 were 269 million barrels per year, which increased to 565 million barrels per year last year. In the first four months of this year, this figure reached 208 million barrels per day.

The export value of this amount also rose from \$9.8 billion in 2020 to \$36 billion in 2023, and in the first four months of this year, it reached \$14.5 billion. He noted that every 100,000 barrels of oil bring in \$2.8 billion, and oil revenue collection increased from \$6.8 billion in 2020 to \$25.5 billion in 2023. Petrochemical exports also rose from 24 million tons to 30 million tons per year.

Owji stated that according to the Statistical Center, the growth of the oil and gas sector reached 20% last year, and during this period, we recruited 2,100 graduates from the Petroleum University of Technology. He referred to the utilization of knowledge-based companies and stated: "When we took over this ministry, there were not even 150 knowledge-based companies in use. However, today, according to the Vice President for Science and Technology, the Ministry of Oil has ranked first in the use of knowledge-based companies and the production of domestic goods for three consecutive years. Additionally, we have banned the import of over 250 items that were previously imported from abroad to utilize the capabilities of domestic manufacturers." He also addressed the issue of the Oil Ministry's social responsibilities, stating: "In terms of social responsibilities, we have undertaken more than 6,000 projects valued at 45 trillion tomans, whereas in the previous administration there might not have been more than 2,000 projects." The Minister emphasized that the main asset of the oil industry is its human capital and added: "We have prevented the flight and migration of elites in the oil industry and have recruited more than 2,100 graduates from the Oil Faculty. Additionally, more than 34,000 veterans in this industry have been regularized, and significant improvements have been made in terms of salary payments."

Foreign Trade Hits \$36b in First Four Months



TEHRAN - The Head of the Iranian Customs Administration announced that the country's foreign trade, excluding oil, reached \$36 billion in the first four months of this year. He stated that out of the total foreign trade this year, \$17.5 billion were non-oil exports and \$18.5 billion were imports.

Mohammad Rezvani Far, during a specialized meeting with members of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture aimed at addressing issues in foreign trade and customs affairs, said that 140 partner laboratories have been added to the comprehensive customs system (EPL) to determine the nature of goods for regulatory purposes, including tariff determination and other matters.

He noted that customs need to identify the nature of goods for tariff determination and valuation and for regulatory purposes. Customs have invited qualified laboratories to act as partner laboratories. The Deputy Minister of Economy stated that since the invitation, 140 laboratories have expressed their readiness and have been introduced in the customs system as partner laboratories. Previously, only two to three laboratories operated in Tehran province; however, with new customs policies, 23 laboratories are now determining the nature of goods. Rezvani Far expressed hope that with the increase in partner laboratories, the time required to determine the nature of goods will be expedited and facilitated. He mentioned that the temporary importation procedure has been updated this year to ensure tasks are performed with greater ease and transparency. Currently, tasks related to the temporary importation procedure have been delegated to provincial customs. The Head of Iranian Customs continued that the temporary importation procedure is carried out in the issuing customs, border customs, and the nearest customs to the place of production. Regarding the status of hand-woven carpets raised by participants in the session, Rezvani Far stated that the Iranian Customs has drafted a proposal package to develop carpet exports.

Power Plant Capacity Exceeds 93,000 Megawatts



TEHRAN - Energy Minister says that, in the 13th government, 1.48 million cubic meters of water supply projects have been realized to date, showing a 211% growth compared to the four-year target of 700 million cubic meters. Ali Akbar Mehrabian added in the session of the performance report of the 13th government's cabinet members: This level of growth in water supply projects is equivalent to that of an eight-year government. He stated: Given the water stress in various parts of the country, the 36-month drought index in this government was much more severe than the index in the 36 months before the start of the government, and we experienced numerous droughts, especially in the years 2021 and 2022. Mehrabian continued: Despite severe water stress in provinces such as Khuzestan, Sistan and Baluchestan, Kurdistan, Hamedan, and Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari in 2021, this stress was intensely managed. He stated: In this government, the increase in the country's dam capacity to 5.4 billion cubic meters was targeted and presented to the parliament as a program, and so far, 4.1 billion cubic meters, equivalent to 75% of the four-year target, have been realized. Mehrabian said: Given the country's poor water resources, the use of unconventional water resources, including seawater and treated sanitary wastewater, was prioritized through various projects. We thank the Ministry of Industry, Mining, and Trade and the country's industries for their good cooperation in the seawater transfer projects. He noted: The total installed capacity of the country's power plants has increased from 85,000 megawatts at the beginning of the government to more than 93,000 megawatts now, showing an increase of 8,000 megawatts. He added: In addition, by implementing capacity enhancement programs and utilizing the capabilities and programs of knowledge-based companies, 2,000 megawatts have been added to the production capacity of existing power plants, and power plants such as Sahand, Rudshur, and Rey will be operational by August.

Gas Flares Expected to Be Shut Down for Ever Next Year

TEHRAN (Shana) - The burning of natural gas as a national wealth is expected to end next year.

The managing director of the National Petrochemical Company (NPC) Morteza Shahmirzaie made the remarks adding in close cooperation between the petrochemical industry and the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) we will witness the shutdown of the gas flares, which are burning the national wealth, next year.

Speaking at a news conference on the sidelines of the 15th Iran Petrochemical Forum (IPF) on Tuesday, NPC's CEO called the 2-day forum one of the main petrochemical events; gathering scientists, experts, inventors, politicians, and diplomats online. He continued that the current event would seek to discuss the latest developments in the petrochemical sector and introduce its achievements to promote the place of the industry in the world. According to him, displaying the petrochemical sector's achievements, improving processes, identification of environmental pollutants and prevention of their release, meaningful cooperation between the petrochemical industry and financial institutions, corporations, and producers, unveiling advanced processes and sharing technological ideas and plans are among the main goals of holding the 15th Iran Petrochemical Forum. Meanwhile Director of the dispatching department of the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) Saeed Aghili said that natural gas and liquid fuel delivery to power plants has risen during summer this year. Shana quoted Aghili as saying that fuel delivery to power plants and electricity generators has risen equivalent to 7.5 million cubic meters per day when compared with a similar period last year, of which 91 percent is natural gas. Currently, 323 million cubic meters of natural gas/liters are delivered to 107 large-scale power plants and 400 electricity generators on a daily basis, he said. Fuel consumption is on the rise in summer so that natural gas delivery to the non-major industries and major industries including petrochemicals, steel, cement, and refining has risen by 10 mcm/d and 20 mcm/d respectively when compared with the similar period last year, the NIGC official said.

Bangladesh Partially Restores Telecommunication Services

DHAKA (Dispatches) - Bangladesh partially restored telecommunication services on Wednesday although internet connection was slow and social media remained suspended, days after deadly protests against reservations for government jobs killed almost 150 people. The country has mostly been calm since Sunday when the Supreme Court scaled down reservations for various categories to 7%, overruling a high court verdict reinstating a 56% quota in government jobs that had been scrapped in 2018. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government said on Tuesday that it would heed the Supreme Court ruling. As demonstrations against the quotas - which included a 30% reservation for family members of freedom fighters from the 1971 war of independence from Pakistan - tapered off, the government started easing the curfew imposed last week. Restrictions will be relaxed for seven hours on Wednesday and offices will also be open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., officials said.



Macron Not to Name New French Gov't Until After the Olympics



PARIS (Dispatches) - French President Emmanuel Macron on Tuesday dismissed a left-wing alliance's push to name a new prime minister after snap elections, saying parties in a fractured parliament must come together to build a broad coalition after the Paris Olympic Games. "Of course we need to be concentrated on the Games until mid-August," Macron told broadcaster France 2. "From then... it will be my responsibility to name a prime minister and entrust them with the task of forming a government, with the broadest backing possible," he said. Macron surprised the nation by dissolving parliament and calling snap elections, with the second round of voting on July 7 producing a lower-house National Assembly with no clear majority. The left-wing NFP alliance emerged as the largest grouping with 193 seats, against 164 for Macron's centrists and 143 for the far-right National Rally (RN) and its allies. Judging themselves the winners with the most seats, leftist parties have butted heads for weeks over a prospective prime minister. They finally came up with a consensus candidate, little-known economist and senior civil servant Lucie Castets, just before Macron's Tuesday prime-time TV appearance. Working for the Paris city government, Castets is a total unknown to the wider public. The 37-year-old AFP she had accepted the nomination "with great humility but also great conviction", believing herself a "serious and credible candidate" for PM. Castets added that one of her priorities would be to "repeal the pension reform" that Macron pushed through last year, triggering widespread protests and discontent, as well as a "major tax reform so everyone pays their fair share".

Demonstrators Stage Wave of Protests Against U.S. Military Aid to Israel



WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Protesters against the Gaza war staged a sit-in at a congressional office building Tuesday ahead of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's address to Congress, with Capitol Police making multiple arrests.

Netanyahu arrived in Washington Monday for a visit that includes meetings with President Joe Biden and a Wednesday speech before a joint session of Congress. Dozens of protesters rallied outside his hotel Monday evening, and on Tuesday afternoon, hundreds of demonstrators staged a flashmob-style protest in the Cannon Building, which houses offices of House of Representatives members.

Organized by Jewish Voice for Peace, protesters wearing red T-shirts that read "Not In Our Name" took over the building's rotunda, sitting on the floor, unfurling signs and chanting "Let Gaza Live!" To display this content from X (Twitter), you must enable advertisement tracking and audience measurement. After about a half-hour of clapping and chanting, officers from the US Capitol Police issued several warnings, then began arresting protesters — binding their hands with zip ties and leading them away one-by-one. "I am the daughter of Holocaust survivors and I know what a Holocaust looks like," said Jane Hirschmann, a native of Saugerties, New York, who drove down for the protest along with her two daughters — both of whom were arrested. "When we say 'Never Again,' we mean never for anybody." The demonstrators focused much of their ire on the Biden administration, demanding that the president immediately cease all arms shipments to Israel. "We're not focusing on Netanyahu. He's just a symptom," Hirschmann said. "But how can (Biden) be calling for a cease-fire when he's sending them bombs and planes?" As of 8 p.m. Tuesday night, the Capitol Police said they did not have a final tally of the number of people arrested. But JVP claimed in a statement that 400 people, "including over a dozen rabbis," had been arrested.

Mitchell Rivard, chief of staff for Rep. Dan Kildee, D-Mich., said in a statement that his office called for Capitol Police intervention after the demonstrators "became disruptive, violently beating on the office doors, shouting loudly, and attempting to force entry into the office."

Kildee later told The Associated Press that he was confused why his office was targeted, saying he had voted against a massive supplemental military aid package to Israel earlier this year.

Netanyahu's American visit has touched off a wave of protest activity, with some demonstrations condemning Israel and others expressing support but pressuring Netanyahu to strike a cease-fire deal and bring home the hostages still being held by Hamas. Families of some of the remaining hostages held a protest vigil Tuesday evening on the National Mall, demanding that Netanyahu come to terms with Hamas and bring home the approximately 120 Israeli hostages remaining in Gaza. About 150 people wearing yellow shirts that read "Seal the Deal NOW!" chanted "Bring Them Home" and listened to testimonials from relatives and former hostages. The demonstrators applauded when Biden's name was mentioned, but several criticized Netanyahu — known by his nickname "Bibi" — on the belief that he was dragging his feet or playing hardball on a proposed cease-fire deal that would return all of the hostages. "I'm begging Bibi. There's a deal on the table and you have to take it," said Aviva Siegel, 63, who spent 51 days in captivity and whose husband, Keith, remains a hostage. "I want Bibi to look in my eyes and tell me one thing: that Keith is coming home." Multiple protests are planned for Wednesday, when Netanyahu is slated to address Congress. In anticipation, police have significantly boosted security around the Capitol building and closed multiple roads for most of the week. Biden and Netanyahu are expected to meet Thursday, according to a US official who spoke on condition of anonymity ahead of the White House announcement. Vice President Kamala Harris will also meet with Netanyahu separately that day.

Harris, as Senate president, would normally sit behind foreign leaders addressing Congress, but she'll be away Wednesday, on an Indianapolis trip scheduled before Biden withdrew his reelection bid and she became the likely Democratic presidential candidate over the weekend.

Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump announced on Truth Social that he would meet with Netanyahu on Friday.

Tensions in Yemen Could Lead to Devastating Regional Escalation

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - The UN envoy for Yemen warned Tuesday that recent developments in the Red Sea, Israel and inside the country "show the real danger of a devastating region-wide escalation" — but he also pointed to a glimmer of hope. Hans Grundberg said Yemen's warring parties — the internationally recognized government and Houthi rebels — informed him Monday night "that they have agreed on a path to de-escalate a cycle of measures and countermeasures which had sought to tighten their grip on the banking and transport sectors." But he warned the UN Security Council that seven months of escalating actions reached "a new and dangerous level last week" which saw a Houthi drone attack on Tel Aviv and Israeli retaliatory attacks on Yemen's key port of Hodeida and its oil and power facilities. He said Houthi attacks on ships in the Red Sea and surrounding waterways continue and the rebels are escalating their crackdown "on civic space and on international organizations." Airstrikes on Houthi targets by the United States and United Kingdom are also continuing, he said. Grundberg also warned that escalating economic issues have been "translating into public threats to return to full-fledged war." Yemen has been engulfed in civil war since 2014, when the Iranian-backed Houthis seized much of northern Yemen and forced the internationally recognized government to flee from the capital, Sanaa. A Saudi-led coalition intervened the following year in support of government forces, and in time the conflict turned into a proxy war between Saudi Arabia and Iran. While fighting has decreased considerably since a six-month truce in 2022, Grundberg told the council that clashes have been reported along numerous frontlines this month "and we have witnessed an increase in military preparations and reinforcements." Rivalry between the Houthis and the southern government have fueled an economic divide, with the rivals establishing separate and independent central banks and different versions of the country's currency, the riyal. Grundberg told reporters after the briefing that the rivals informed him Monday night that they reached agreement on four points to de-escalate the



months long standoff on the banking sector and the operation of Yemenia Airways.

He told the council the "understanding" followed months of contacts with his office, which warned of the risk to the Yemeni people that "the deepening weaponization of the economy" would pose. "I welcome the parties' decision to choose a path of dialogue and I look forward to engaging further with the parties to support them in implementing their commitments with regard to the banking sector and Yemenia Airways," he said. "The aim remains a unified currency, a unified and independent central bank, and a banking sector free of political interference."

Nonetheless, while Grundberg welcomed the willingness of both sides to engage on economic issues, he said, "I reiterate my warning to the council that we risk a return to full-scale war and all the predictable human suffering and regional implications that entails." Grundberg told reporters the four points are similar to commitments the two sides made in September to engage in dialogue. He said he told the council in closed consultations after the meeting that "we have been here before and that previous opportunities have slipped in the past because they never translated into structured dialogue on underlying issues." The UN special envoy said he will provide all the support the rivals need to implement the measures they agreed to, and expects them to translate their commitments to de-escalation into action. These include the need for monetary policy coordination, progress toward a unified central bank and currency, and guarantees to ensure the central bank's independence from political interference, he said. "Stopgap measures could serve as band-aids but being serious about building an economy that benefits all Yemenis means that the parties have also to engage on underlying longer-term issues," Grundberg said. Yemen is the Arab world's poorest country and faces one of the world's worst humanitarian crises. Acting U.N. humanitarian chief Joyce Msuya told the council that Yemen's GDP has shrunk by more than half since the conflict began, and a recent World Bank analysis found it contracted even further in the last year.



Israel Tanks Advance Deeper in Southern Gaza

GAZA (Dispatches) - Palestinian residents of eastern neighborhoods of Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip fled their homes on Tuesday as Israeli tanks advanced deep into the area after Israel ordered the population to evacuate. The tanks pushed into the Khan Younis town of Bani Suhaila and several districts nearby were bombed for a second day, forcing tens of thousands of civilians to seek refuge elsewhere. Israel said its action - the latest in a series of major assaults in recent weeks in parts of Gaza where it had long since claimed to have rooted out Hamas - was intended to prevent the militant group's fighters from regrouping. Gaza health officials said Israeli military strikes since Monday killed at least 80 Palestinians in the Khan Younis area - adding to a death toll of more than 39,000 in nearly 10 months of warfare, according to Gaza authorities' figures. The Israeli military said Hamas and other groups used those areas to renew attacks, including firing rockets. Many of the newly displaced families said they had to spend the night in the streets as they searched in vain for a space as western Khan Younis and central Gaza areas were overcrowded. Some of them said they had to flee under Israeli fire. "For us, the most basic of essentials in our lives are not available," a woman, Ibtihal Al-Breim, told Reuters in Khan Younis. "Basic needs (like) water which we had to carry, the electricity, of course, is cut off, food is cut off, let alone the expensive prices, and there's no work." "And then suddenly you're told now you have to leave. Without prior warning, suddenly rockets began falling on us. We had to leave and I wasn't intending to leave - but then there were quadcopters and aircraft, we saw the tanks with our own eyes," she added. U.N. officials described scenes of despair on Tuesday as Israeli airstrikes hit the area. "The situation is impossible," the U.N.'s Palestinian refugee agency UNRWA said on X.

Harris Blasts Trump in Debut Campaign rally

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) — U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris hit the campaign trail Tuesday after effectively clinching the Democratic party's presidential nomination in just 36 hours, with a rally in the battleground state of Wisconsin where she renewed her attacks on Republican candidate Donald Trump. A roaring crowd of battleground state voters greeted Vice President Kamala Harris Tuesday as she opened her Democratic political case against Republican former President Donald Trump. In the November election, she said, "it's a choice between freedom and chaos." "In this campaign, I promise you, I will proudly put my record against his any day of the week," Harris said. "We believe in a future where every person has the opportunity not just to get by, but to get ahead." Harris arrived in the Milwaukee area having locked up nomination support from Democratic delegates after President Joe Biden dropped his reelection bid on Sunday. It was her first campaign rally since she launched her campaign just two days ago with Biden's endorsement. The event reflected a vibrancy that had been lacking among Democrats in recent weeks, adding to the evidence along with \$100 million in donations since Sunday afternoon, that Harris looks to project a sense of steady confidence about the November election. The vice president has also scored the backing of Democratic officials

and political groups, including congressional leaders Charles Schumer and Hakeem Jeffries. By stopping in Wisconsin, Harris was going to one of the "blue wall" states along with Michigan and Pennsylvania that Democrats see as essential for securing a presidential victory. The visit comes a week after the Republican National Convention wrapped up in the city and as Harris works to sharpen her message against the GOP nominee with just over 100 days until Election Day. Harris' trip to the state was a sharp contrast with Biden's July 6 trip when he was trying to reassure Democrats who were wary of his continued candidacy after his troubling performance in the June 27 debate against Donald Trump. Sen. Tammy Baldwin, who is up for reelection this year, skipped the Biden event, but she spoke before Harris on Tuesday. Harris is leaning into her resume as a former district attorney and California attorney general, seeking to draw a contrast with Trump who is the first former president to be convicted of felony crimes. She said at the rally that as a prosecutor she had dealt with fraudsters and cheaters, concluding that she knows the type of person Trump is. "She's prepared to meet this moment because she was professionally trained to prosecute a criminal, and unfortunately that's who the Republicans have put forward," said Sen. Laphonza Butler, D-Calif.





Celtic Edge Manchester City 4-3 in U.S. Pre-Season Friendly

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Nicolas Kuhn scored twice and Luis Palma netted the decider in the 68th minute to give Celtic a 4-3 victory over Manchester City in a pre-season friendly on Tuesday. Norway's Erling Haaland, wearing the City captain's armband for the first time, nodded home an equalizer in the 57th minute only for Honduran international Palma to tap in the winning goal on a breakaway at the University of North Carolina's Kenan Memorial Stadium. The match was a tuneup for next month's start of the 2024-25 campaigns for Celtic, winner of the past three Scottish Premiership crowns, and four-time defending English Premier League champion Manchester City, which began a US tour. With several top stars resting from the European Championships, City manager Pep Guardiola used the opportunity to analyze younger talent. The match marked a Celtic debut for goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel, the 37-year-old Dane who began his career with City in 2006. He played the first half for the Hoops. German right wing Kuhn netted a first-half brace for Celtic, playing in a fourth pre-season match. Down 3-1 at half-time, City answered seconds into the second half on just-inserted 21-year-old Argentine substitute Maximo Perrone's goal, a left-footed shot from the right side into the far corner on his first touch of the ball. Haaland headed in a centering pass from countryman Oscar Bobb in the 57th minute to lift City level. But Celtic scored the winner in the 68th minute as Palma, who entered three minutes earlier, finished a three-man breakaway as City's defenders were caught flat-

footed near midfield after pressing with the backline.

City substitute Ben Knight was denied an equalizer in the 76th minute when second-half Celtic keeper Viljami Sinisalo of Finland knocked the ball over the crossbar. Kuhn opened the scoring in the 13th minute, taking a pass on the right side and charging in on City starting goalkeeper Stefan Ortega, then firing a left-footed shot just inside the far post. Schmeichel denied Haaland in the 23rd minute with a right-hand save on a left-footed shot off a feed from James McAtee. In the 31st, Schmeichel again denied Haaland, from the right side on a left-footed shot that Schmeichel swatted away with his left hand.

But Man City equalized in the 33rd minute as Haaland flicked the ball left to onrushing Bobb, who blasted a shot that deflected off Schmeichel and bounced into the goal. Kuhn answered for Celtic in the 36th minute, rushing in from the right wing then pulling back the ball to evade a defender and curling a left-footed blast high into the goal. Celtic stretched the edge to 3-1 in the 44th minute when Kuhn delivered a perfect centering pass to Japan's fast-rushing Kyogo Furuhashi, who split two defenders, evaded Ortega and fired in a left-footed shot from a steep angle. Man City's US tour continues Saturday against AC Milan at New York's Yankee Stadium, with other matches next week against Barcelona at Orlando and Chelsea in Columbus, Ohio.

Celtic will face Chelsea on Saturday in South Bend, Indiana.

Guardiola Dismisses De Bruyne Transfer Rumors



LONDON (Dispatches) - Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola has poured cold water on reports linking Kevin De Bruyne with a move away from the club amid speculation the Belgian midfielder may depart for Saudi Arabia. De Bruyne, whose contract expires in 2025, said last month that he is not ruling out a move but Guardiola believes there will be no major changes to the squad before the end of the transfer window, which closes Aug. 30. "Kevin is not going," Guardiola said at a press conference at North Carolina State University on Monday ahead of their opening U.S. tour match against Celtic. "I am delighted with the squad for many years. I don't know what will happen in the market, if someone leaves, we will talk about that." But 85-95 per cent we (will) have the same squad. We've made an impact in the market (over the years) and every situation is different. I feel comfortable because the quality we have in the squad is difficult to replace. "City signed 20-year-old Brazilian winger Savinho last week and Guardiola confirmed that Calvin Phillips, who was on loan to West Ham United, has been training with the first team. "Savinho can play on the wing, and when he is one-v-one, he is devastating," the Spaniard added. "He is young and to bring in one or two players to keep things fresh, it is necessary but we cannot change six or seven. It is impossible and unsustainable. "Many players want to come here but we didn't get agreements from the clubs and when they ask a very high price we don't do it." City begin their Premier League title defense at Chelsea on Aug 18.

Medvedev Heads to Paris Olympics Without Flag, Anthem, National Pride

PARIS (Dispatches) - There will be no flags or fanfare for Daniil Medvedev at the Paris Olympics but Russia's highest-profile athlete in the French capital is unlikely to be far from the headlines. The tennis star, along with other Russian and Belarusians at the Games, has to compete as a neutral following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. Having demonstrated that they have not supported the war and have no links to the military, they have been allowed to compete but cannot fly their national flags. The two countries' national anthems are also banned and should Medvedev win an Olympic medal for the first time, the achievement will not be recognised in the medals table. "When I'm 40, if I can say I played in the Tokyo Olympics, Paris Olympics and Los Angeles Olympics, I had a lot of fun in my life, my career, I'm going to be happy," said Medvedev. The 28-year-old world number five is one of the most controversial players in tennis. The 1.98m giant came close to being disqualified from his Wimbledon semi-final against Carlos Alcaraz this month for a foul-mouthed rant at the chair umpire, before escaping with a warning. Medvedev explained that he had called the official "a small cat". His explosive temperament has seen him feud with rivals Stefanos Tsitsipas and Alexander Zverev. In Miami in 2018, after Tsitsipas made a foul-mouthed remark about Medvedev, the Russian dismissed the Greek as a "small kid who doesn't know how to play". His rivalry with Zverev peaked at Monte Carlo last year when Medvedev saved two match points in a tense last-16 victory. Germany's Zverev



lashed out at Medvedev for taking a bathroom break at a key moment in the tie, blasting the Russian as "one of the most unfair players in the world". Medvedev hit back, telling the current world number four to "take a look at yourself in the mirror". In the Netflix series "Break Point", Zverev accused Medvedev of playing "dirty games" and added: "He's somebody that knows how to play with the head of the opponent". Crowds around the world have not escaped the wrath of Medvedev. At the Paris Masters last year, he branded fans "stupid" for jeering during one of his matches. Despite suggesting that he would halt his match, he agreed to continue, but warned his tormentors "shut your mouths, okay!" Despite his fiery personality the chess-playing and fluent French-speaking Medvedev has reached the peaks of the sport. At the 2021 US Open he claimed his only major title, easily defeating Novak Djokovic in the final and denying the Serb a rare calendar Grand Slam. True to his unorthodox nature, Medvedev celebrated his New York victory by falling to the floor of the Arthur Ashe Stadium and imitating the "dead fish" celebration from a FIFA video game. Medvedev has come agonisingly close to adding to his majors collection. In this year's Australian Open final he surrendered a two-set lead to lose to Jannik Sinner. Two years ago in Melbourne he had opened a two-sets lead over Rafael Nadal only again to lose in five. Nadal also got the better of him at the 2019 US Open final over another five-setter.

FIFA Targeted in European Leagues, FIFPRO'S EU Antitrust Complaint



BRUSSELS (Dispatches) - European Leagues and FIFPRO Europe will jointly file a complaint to EU antitrust regulators against FIFA's international match calendar, the sports organization and players union said on Tuesday, intensifying the spat with world soccer's governing body. The move by the two bodies followed legal action by the English, French and Italian player unions against FIFA on the same issue in a Brussels commercial court last month. The complaint to the European Commission, which acts as the EU competition enforcer, will be filed in the coming weeks, a person with direct knowledge of the matter said. European Leagues and FIFPRO Europe said the international match calendar is now beyond saturation and has become unsustainable for national leagues as well as a risk for the health of players. FIFA said the current calendar was unanimously approved by the FIFA Council following a comprehensive consultation, which included FIFPRO and league bodies. "FIFA's calendar is the only instrument ensuring that international football can continue to survive, co-exist, and prosper alongside domestic and continental club football," a FIFA spokesperson said. "Some leagues in Europe - themselves competition organisers and regulators - are acting with commercial self-interest, hypocrisy, and without consideration to everyone else in the world. Those leagues apparently prefer a calendar filled with friendlies and summer tours, often involving extensive global travel." European Leagues and FIFPRO Europe also alleged that FIFA's decisions over the last years have repeatedly favoured its own competitions and commercial interest and neglected its responsibilities as a governing body.

"The complaint will explain that FIFA's conduct infringes EU competition law and notably constitutes an abuse of dominance: FIFA holds a dual role as both the global regulator of football and a competition organiser. This creates a conflict of interest," they said.

Last year, FIFA announced that the 2026 World Cup will have 104 matches instead of the traditional 64 games due to the expanded format with 48 teams taking part.

Seeded Players, Rain Fall in Atlanta



ATLANTA (Dispatches) - No. 6 seed Miomir Kecmanovic of Serbia and No. 7 seed Brandon Nakashima were shown the door in the first round of the Atlanta Open on Tuesday.

Australian lucky loser Adam Walton saved all three break points he faced and took down Kecmanovic 6-4, 6-4. Mackenzie McDonald needed just 72 minutes to win his all-American matchup with Nakashima 6-2, 6-4. McDonald went 3-for-3 in both saving break points and converting his break-point opportunities.

Another lucky loser, Frenchman Harold Mayot, also advanced by defeating Borna Coric of Croatia 7-6 (9), 6-3. Other winners were Italian qualifier Mattia Bellucci, Russian Aslan Karatsev and France's Arthur Rinderknech.

All three of the scheduled night matches were postponed until Wednesday because of inclement weather, including one pitting Australians Christopher O'Connell

and Max Purcell, the eighth seed.

Wild card Lukas Neumayer topped countryman and No. 5 seed Sebastian Ofner 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 (3) in front of their home crowd in Kitzbuhel, Austria.

Neumayer, ranked No. 289 in the world to Ofner's No. 56, had to absorb 10 aces by Ofner and won despite hitting five double faults without an ace. He won five of the final six points of the third-set tiebreaker.

No. 7 seed Roberto Carballes Baena of Spain rallied for a 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 win over Hungary's Marton Fucsovics. Argentina's Thiago Agustin Tirante swept past Austrian Dominic Thiem 6-2, 6-4. Other winners included Italian Matteo Berrettini, Argentina's Facundo Diaz Acosta, Colombia's Daniel Elahi Galan and France's Hugo Gaston.

No. 1 seed Andrey Rublev of Russia took care of Argentina's Camilo Ugo Carabelli 6-4, 7-5 to reach the quarterfinals in Umag.

Ugo Carabelli hit six aces to Rublev's one but also committed six double faults. Rublev had 22 winners while overcoming 18 unforced errors.

Rublev's quarterfinal opponent will be Hungarian Fabian Marozsan, a 6-2, 7-6 (7) winner over Brazilian Thiago Monteiro. And in two Round of 32 matches, Italian fifth seed Luciano Darderi beat Croatian Duje Ajdukovic 6-1, 6-4, while Italy's Fabio Fognini topped France's Luca Van Assche 6-4, 6-3.