

## NEWS IN BRIEF

US bank  
shares fall

● REUTERS

**REUTERS** - Shares of U.S. banks fell with some investors pointing to worries that a flood of Treasury bill issuance following the raising of the U.S. debt ceiling would drain liquidity from lenders.

The U.S. government is expected to issue \$1 trillion or more of short-term debt to replenish its Treasury General Account (TGA) or cash reserves that were depleted during the political haggling over the debt ceiling.

China asks big  
banks to cut  
deposit rates

**BLOOMBERG** - Chinese authorities asked the nation's biggest banks to lower their deposit rates for at least the second time in less than a year, according to people familiar with the matter, marking an effort to boost the world's second-largest economy.

State-owned lenders including Bank of China Ltd., Industrial & Commercial Bank of China Ltd. and Bank of Communications Co. were last week advised to cut rates on a range of products, including on demand deposits by 5 basis points and three-year and five-year time deposits by at least 10 basis points, said the people.

WB lifts 2023  
global growth  
forecasts

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**CNBC** - The World Bank on Tuesday raised its 2023 global growth forecast as the U.S. but said higher interest rates would cause a larger-than-expected drag next year.

Real global GDP is set to climb 2.1% this year, the World Bank said in its latest Global Economic Prospects report. That's up from a 1.7% forecast issued in January but well below the 2022 growth rate of 3.1%.

# Iran-Brazil \$10b trade achievable: Ambassador



● IRNA

## Economy Desk

Iran and Brazil can increase their bilateral annual trade to \$10 billion, said Iranian Ambassador in Brasilia Hossein Qaribi on Tuesday.

He pointed to the opening of an Iranian business center in Brazil as one of the best economic opportunities for Iranian traders in the Brazilian market and added that one of the main tasks of the center is to study the Brazilian market, and in the second step, to pave the ground for the presence of Iranians in Brazilian exhibitions, IRNA reported.

"In 2021, our overall trade hit a record-high of \$6.5 billion with the export of 1.8 million tons of urea; this is in the condition that the urea market was not stable," the envoy added. Meanwhile, the chairman of the Iran-Brazil Joint Chamber of Commerce

said that branches of two Iranian banks will be set up in Brazil.

Fakhreddin Amerian added that the first trade and economic delegation of the country will be sent to the South American country in the near future to bolster bilateral trade.

Stressing the capacities for promoting exports of Iranian products to Brazil, Amerian noted, "With the organization of marketing structures, the ground will be paved for the entry of Iranian companies and merchants to the lucrative Brazilian market."

A specialized and expert-level meeting was held recently between senior directors of public and private sectors, banks, chairmen of specialized commissions of the Iran-Brazil Joint Chamber of Commerce, aimed at boosting synergy and spurring exports between Iran and Brazil.

## KSC has \$800m worth of development projects: CEO

The Khuzestan Steel Company (KSC) as Iran's second-largest steel mill has nearly \$800 million worth of expansion projects, including a major gas-fired power plant that will significantly boost its output and environmental sustainability once they come on line.

CEO of the KSC said that the company has invested some 400 trillion rials in a total of 207 new projects to increase its production and to create more jobs in Khuzestan, a resource-rich province in southwestern Iran on the border with Iraq, Press TV reported.

"Such volume of investment is unprecedented in the country's manufacturing sector," said Amin Ebrahimi.

Ebrahimi said the most important of KSC's expansion projects is the Zamzam 3 Mill which he said will increase the company's production of sponge

iron, or what is technically known as direct-reduced iron, by 2.2 million tons per year.

He said the plant is expected to come on line by September.

The CEO said the KSC is racing against time to open some other large projects in the company, including a 520 megawatts (MW) power plant that will ensure a stable supply of electricity to its mills.

Previous reports had suggested that the Kuzestan Steel Power Plant would become operational in 2024 with an estimated cost of more than \$355 million.

The gas-fired power plant is one of many electricity stations being launched by Iranian manufacturers to both power their industrial operations and to supply electricity to Iran's power grid.

The Iranian government has committed to a con-

tinuous supply of energy to power plants being constructed by major manufacturers including by steel and cement producers.

The KSC began operating in 1989 as the first direct reduced iron and the first electric arc furnace steel plant in Iran. The company is the biggest producer of steel bars and the second biggest producer of semi-finished steel, or ingots, in Iran.

Iran's consumption of steel has increased significantly in the two months to late May compared to the same period last year amid a surge in demand for domestically-produced steel in the country's manufacturing sector.

A report by the IRIB News cited figures from Iranian Steel Producers Association (ISPA) showing that Iranian customers had purchased some 2.432 million tons of semi-finished steel, or ingots, pro-



● IRNA

duced in the country in the two months to May 21. The figure was an increase of 22% compared to the April-May 2022, said the report, adding that total steel ingots produced in Iran in the two months to late May had reached nearly 3 million tons.

Consumption of other steel and iron products

produced by Iranian still mills also increased over April-March this year.

Some 3.357 million tons of the domestically-produced sponge iron, also known as direct reduced iron, were supplied to Iranian customers over the two months to late May, up 4% year on year.

Long steel supply to Iranian manufacturers rose

by 2% year on year in April-May to reach 0.823 million tons from the total domestic output of 0.99 million tons reported over the period, showed the ISPA figures.

Steel products consumption in Iran remained almost flat in the two months to late May compared to the same period last year at 1.686 million tons, showed the figures.

The figures come amid reports suggesting that Iranian carmakers have increased their purchases of steel from domestic companies as they plan to reach record output levels. Iran is the 10th largest producer of steel in the world. The country has seen a surge in its production and exports of steel in recent years, mainly because of increased government support for the sector, which has been a response to US sanctions on the country's oil exports.

## \$24b of Iran's frozen assets to be released soon: ISNA

## Economy Desk

Following the visit of the Sultan of Oman to Iran, \$24 billion of Iran's frozen assets will be released from Iraq and South Korea in the near future, ISNA said in an exclusive report on Tuesday.

A sum of \$7 billion of the assets will be released from South Korea, as more than \$10 billion will be released by Iraq, most of which are related to ener-

gy exports.

Moreover, following the recent meeting between the Governor of the Central Bank of Iran Mohammad Reza Farzin and the head of the International Monetary Fund Kristalina Georgieva in Washington, Farzin announced that the Islamic Republic will soon have access to \$6.7 billion of its financial resources in the IMF.

Currently, Iran has \$4.8 billion worth of Special

Drawing Rights (SDRs), which is equivalent to \$6.7 billion, he said, adding that these resources can be used quickly to help further improve the country's economic situation. Farzin added that in different times, when the global economy faces recession, the IMF creates liquidity entitled "SDR Allocation, Special Drawing Rights" in order to help its members deal with their economic recession.



Iran's chief banker also called on the IMF to support the strengthening of international banking

programs for the expansion of economic relations and trade exchanges with countries.