Economy Domestic & Int'l

NEWS IN BRIEF

Britain to waive oil, gas windfall tax



CNBC – Britain's windfall tax on oil and gas producers will not be applied if prices drop below certain levels for six months in a row, the finance ministry said on Friday, in a move the government hopes will boost energy security.

The energy profit levy (EPL) was introduced in May last year after a jump in energy prices, but the industry has warned that the high tax level could lead to reduced output in the long term.

Kazakhstan eyes becoming Eurasia's digital hub



REUTERS – Kazakhstan aims to become one of the largest digital hubs in Eurasia, said President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev as he chaired the 35th plenary session of the Foreign Investors Council (FIC), which coincided with the Astana International Forum (AIF).

"Geopolitical tensions and increasing protectionism are shaking the global economy. This threatens not only a slowdown but also depresses global growth," he added.

Tokayev emphasized that the general international new concepts and objects, such as artificial intelligence, block chain, the Internet of Things, and Big Data, are changing the game in the agriculture and finance industries.



In recent days, due to the decrease in the global price of gold accompanied with a descending trend for the exchange rate of the dollar as the downward trend has intensified and prices have returned to the rates of last Iranian year, which ended on March 20.

Experts believe that speculations about the reduction of tensions with the West, the release of a part of Iran's frozen assets, the release of European prisoners, the re-normalization process in the region between Iran and Saudi Arabia, and Tehran's green light to Cairo to resume bilateral relations have all been effective in creating this downhill trend of the dollar exchange rate. But evidence shows that the government's policies to regulate the currency market and create stability are the main factor in forming the current condition.

Further decline

The U.S. dollar has reached 417,000 rials.

Analysts of the gold market in Iran believe that demand for the precious metal is at its lowest levels in a year despite falling prices.

The global price of gold reached \$1,949 per ounce, which indicates an average decrease of \$20 compared to the beginning of the week, said Mohammad Keshti-Aray on Friday.

Iran's main bullion gold coin, Bahar Azadi, has been trading at prices near 250 million rials over the past days. Prices of other major cur-

rencies also dropped in the unofficial market just as local news agencies and experts attributed the sudden decrease to a government decision in December to appoint a



new CBI governor, which allowed for a change in the bank's monetary and

foreign exchange policies. CBI Governor Mohammadreza Farzin has in-

troduced measures to support the rial, saying that the CBI will definitely

intervene to control prices in the foreign exchange market.



e mcls.gov.ir

U.S. sanctions on Iran hampers int'l will to promote social justice: *Minister*

Economy Desk

The unilateral coercive measures imposed by the U.S. against Iran is a clear example of the deprivation of people from the right to development, health and growth opportunities, said the Iranian labor minister, adding that the sanctions is in clear contradiction with the international will to promote social justice.

Speaking at the 111th ses-On the sidelines of his

sion of the International Labour Conference in the Swiss capital, Geneva, Solat Mortazavi added that sanctions are actually a form of institutionalized discrimination against a community by depriving its members of opportunities for individual growth and enjoying decent work and life, mcls.gov.ir reported.

visit to Geneva, Mortazavi held a meeting with his Qatari counterpart Ali bin Smaikh al-Marri who was the chairman of the conference.

During the meeting, they discussed ways to enhance joint cooperation between Qatar and Iran, especially in the labor sector.

Meanwhile, the head of the High Center of Islamic

Labor Councils of Iran said that social justice was the main agenda of the 111th session of the International Labour Conference.

Olya Alibeigi added that Iran is one of the founding members of the International Labor Organization (ILO), noting that the ILO is a specialized parliament in the field of labor that works under the supervision of the United Nations.

Cross-border trade up 14.5%

fficial figures published by the Iranian Finance Ministry show that trade exchanges between Iran and its neighboring countries rose by 14.5% in value terms in the last

of Azerbaijan, Russia, Turkey, Kazakhstan Turkmenistan, Oman and Saudi Arabia in the year to late March, IRNA reported. That value of trade was \$58.843 billion and neighbors weighed 75.184 million tons, a slight increase (0.1%), compared with the year 1400, when Iran exported 74.622 million tons. Iraq, Turkey, the UAE, Afghanistan



Pakistan unveils \$51b budget



AFP - Pakistan's government unveiled a 14.5 trillion rupee (around \$50.5 billion) budget Friday, with over half set aside to service 7.3 trillion rupees of debt.

Presenting the budget to the National Assembly on Friday, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar insisted targets had been prudent.

Iranian calendar year increased by 14.5 per-1401 (ended March 20), cent year-on-year. compared to the year Of the total trade with the neighboring states before.

During the year 1401, in the year 1401, nonoil exports of Iran Iran traded a total of 96.767 tons of goods stood at \$30.537 billion. That was up by with all of its 15 neighboring countries, nearly 19.5% comnamely, Iraq, the UAE, pared with the year to Pakistan, Afghanistan, late March 2022. Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, Non-oil shipments Armenia, the Republic exported by Iran to

First turn published: June 10, 2023

and Pakistan were. respectively, the top importers of Iranian goods in 1401. Figures also show that

the country's imports from its neighboring countries have risen by 9.6% in value terms, year-on-year, in the year 1401, while falling by 21.6% in volume terms over the same period.



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