

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Senegal backs African Union seat at G20



AFP - Granting the African Union a permanent seat at the G20 group of wealthy nations would undo an "injustice", Senegalese President Macky Sall said on Friday.

"Africa together is eighth in the world in terms of gross domestic product," Sall told an economic forum.

South Africa is the continent's sole permanent member of the club that brings together the European Union and 19 other advanced economies and represents more than 80 percent of the world's GDP.

## Turkey wants grain deal further extended



AP

BLOOMBERG - Turkey wants the safe-transit deal for Ukrainian grain exports from Black Sea ports extended for three months instead of two, said President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

"I'm hopeful for an extension," Erdogan said in Istanbul early Saturday in a joint appearance with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

The shipping deal is set to expire on July 17. Its termination — which Russia has repeatedly threatened — may lift global food prices given Ukraine's importance as an exporter of grains.

## Fire engulfs Mexican oil platform



REUTERS - Two workers died and another remained missing after a raging fire broke out early on Friday morning at an offshore platform run by Mexican state oil company Pemex just off the southern edge of the Gulf of Mexico.

In posts on Twitter, Pemex said it had accounted for all other workers and said oil production had taken a major hit from the blaze. The platform operates in the company's Cantarell Field, once one of the world's most productive.

## Iran's jobless rate drops 1% to 8.2% in Q1



## Economy Desk

According to a new report by the Statistical Center of Iran (SCI), the unemployment rate in the country fell by 1% to 8.2% year-on-year in the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21–June 21).

Tied with the jobless rate that was recorded in the third quarter of the previous Iranian calendar year (June 22–September 23), the 8.2% year-on-year unemployment rate is the lowest figure that the country has seen in the past two decades, IRNA reported.

The latest SCI report, published on Saturday, also showed that 728,000 new jobs were created in the past 12 months.

During the period, employment in services accounted for 51.3% of

total employment, while employment in industry was 33.1%. The share of agricultural employment was the lowest at 15.5%. The report indicated that some 24,306,000 people from the active population of 15 years old and above in Iran were employed in June this year.

A look at the unemployment rate of those between the ages of 15 and 24 years shows that 21.6% of this age bracket were jobless from March 21 to June 21, registering a 2.4% decrease compared to the same period last Iranian year.

Meanwhile, only 15.5% of Iranians aged 18 to 35 years old were out of job during the first quarter, a 1.1% increase from the 14.4% in the corresponding figure for the same quarter of the previous year.

## Crude output in Abouzar Oilfield to raise by 10,000 bpd



Chief executive of the Iranian Offshore Oil Company (IOOC) Alireza Mehdizadeh on Saturday announced that the daily oil production of the company will increase by about 10,000 barrels of oil per day with the installation of a deck of Platforms A20 and A21 of Abouzar Oilfield in the second half of the current Iranian calendar year (September 21–March 19).

Speaking during a visit to the workshop that constructs the platforms in Khorramshahr, he said that the construction of these oil platforms has progressed by about 85%, according to Tasnim news agency. Each of these platforms weighs about 1,200 tons, Mehdizadeh pointed out, saying that the infrastructure of these platforms had earlier been installed at the desired location.

He added that the drilling operation of the eight oil wells at the platform has had 90% progress.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the CEO of the IOOC announced that the pre-commissioning stage of this giant project would begin one month later.

The construction of A20 and A21 platforms of Abouzar Oilfield  
marinypress.ir

## Mining exports in past three months top \$3.3b

Iranian Mine and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), in its latest report, announced that \$3.3 billion worth of mining and mineral products were exported from the country in the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year.

IMIDRO added that mining and mineral companies exported 15,812,000 tons of various products, valued at \$3.32 billion, from March 21 to June 22, Tasnim news agency reported.

Of the total mining and mineral products exported during this period, the steel and steel products sector accounts for over \$1 billion of the total amount.

In addition, Iran exported ceramics, tiles, alumina powder, antimony, titan, nickel, mica, precious metals, and stones in the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year.

In comparison, the country exported 13,717,000 tons of mining and mineral products in the first quarter, from March 21 to June 22, 2022.



## Iran aims for \$500m furniture exports in two years



## Economy Desk

Iran's Union of Furniture Manufacturers and Exporters has set an ambitious target of achieving \$500 million in furniture exports within the next two years, according to union president Hassan Ahmadian.

Speaking to ISNA on Saturday, Ahmadian highlighted Iraq, Afghanistan, Oman, Qa-

tar, the United Arab Emirates, Tajikistan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, and various African countries as the primary markets for Iranian furniture exports in the past year, during which Iran's overall furniture exports hit a total value of \$70 million.

These countries, predominantly consumers, represent a sizable consumer market of around 400 million people.

Ahmadian emphasized the untapped potential and capacity within Iran's furniture production sector. However, he noted that reaching the export targets and expanding exports would require a strong foundation, government support, stable exchange rates, reliable raw material supply, and modernized machinery.

In the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year, which started on March 21, furniture exports exceeded \$15 million. However, Ahmadian acknowledged that export capacity and expectations were even higher as challenges related to exchange rates and material supply have hindered the pace of export growth. Iran's furniture industry is a significant contributor to employment opportunities in the country, boasting a turnover surpassing \$8 billion. It accounts for approximately eight percent of Iran's workforce.

## Subject of the Call for Mining Equipment Suppliers:

A distinguished mining corporation aims to identify and assess both domestic and international suppliers, along with trading enterprises, specialized in fulfilling the procurement needs of mining machinery. The company is seeking the following mining equipment capabilities for preliminary tender evaluation:

- Various drilling rigs endowed with the capacity to excavate with a diameter ranging from 8 to 10 inches and achieve depths of up to 20 meters.
- Diverse drilling rigs proficient in excavating with a diameter ranging from 6 to 8 inches, reaching depths of up to 20 meters, while possessing the ability to perform inclined drilling.
- Assorted loaders featuring bucket volumes ranging from 10 to 24 cubic meters.
- Varied mining trucks exhibiting impressive load-bearing capacities ranging from 100 to 220 tons.
- Different categories of bulldozers equipped with blades holding a volume of 10 cubic meters.

All machines must be unused and zero kilometers.

Procedure for Acquiring Evaluation Documents:

All interested parties are kindly requested to submit a formal written expression of their readiness no later than 03 August 2023 to the following email address: [ironoremine53@gmail.com](mailto:ironoremine53@gmail.com). Upon receipt, applicants will receive an initial evaluation form for further consideration.

Participants are obliged to provide a comprehensive list of mining machinery they can supply within the time frames of three months, six months, and one year, distinctly indicating the delivery schedule.

Specific models, the precise location and estimated delivery time communicated by each applicant should be announced.