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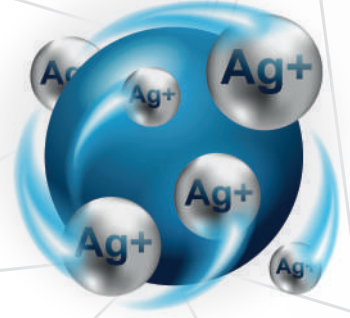
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Joint Chamber of Commerce And Revival of Economic Relations between the Two Countries

It goes without saying that the economic conditions prevailing in the country are, for any incomparable reason, deplorable; such conditions have led the official economic relations of both countries to a standstill, and as a result, our country has been going through an unprecedented era. An era that ends sooner or later anyway, like the stormy sea finally calms down, and far from the eyes of some pessimists who see the world has ended, the economic relations between the two countries, as rooted deep in the history, although unofficially and not in a large scale, directly or indirectly is going on.

Thus, the joint chambers of commerce of the two countries, as per their inherent...

Dr. Amir Houshang Amini

Iran's Foreign Trade during the Two Months of the Year 1402

(20 March 2023 to 20 May 2023)

According to the statistics of the IR of Iran's Customs Department, the Iran's foreign trades volume during the Two

month of the year 1402 are as indicated in the following tables:

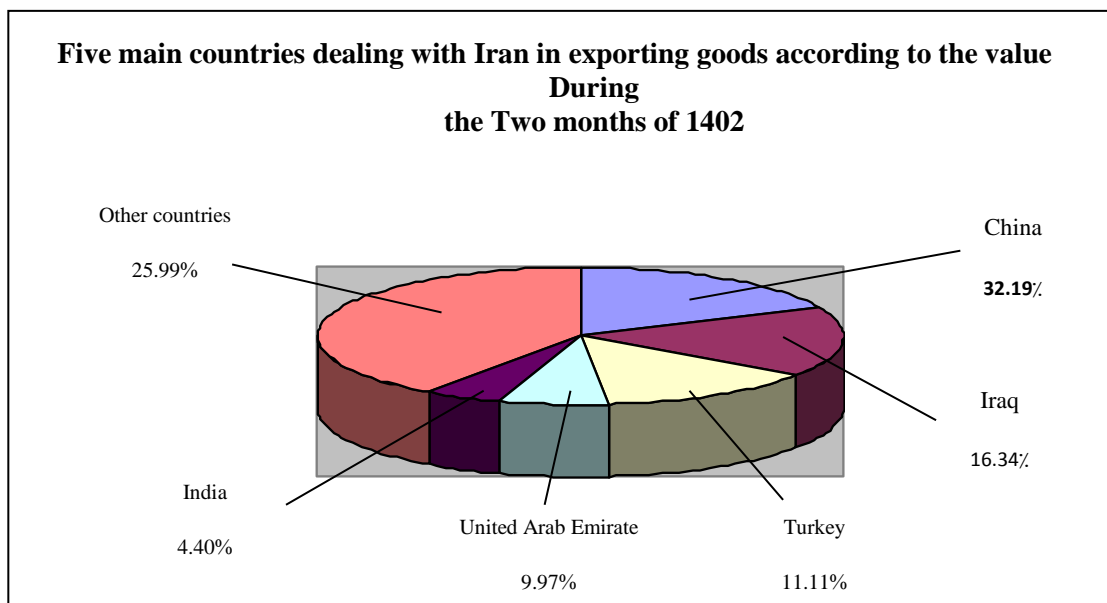
Primary import/export statistics of non-oil goods with the calculation of gas's Liquidities during the Two month of 1401-1402

Activity	Two months of the year 1401		Two months of the year 1400		Percentage of changes	
	Weight (Thousand tons)	Value (Million Dollars)	Weight (Thousand tons)	Value (Million Dollars)	Weight	Value
Import	21.000	7.513	18.705	8.708	12.26	-13.72
Export	4.732	7.941	5.183	8.340	-8.70	-4.79

Exports:

The most important exports during the Two months of 1402, have been done with countries, as follows: 1) "China" with 2.418 million Dollars and 32.19 percent of value, 2) "Iraq" with 1.228 million Dollars and 16.34 percent of

value, 3) "Turkey" with 835 million Dollars and 11.11 percent of value, 4) "United Arab Emirate" with 749 million Dollars and 9.97 percent of value and 5) "India" with 331 million Dollars and 4.40 percent of value.



Imports:

The most important imports during the Two month of 1402, have been done with countries, as follows: 1) "China" with 2.396 million Dollars and 30.17 percent of value, 2) "United Arab Emirate" with 2.313 million Dollars and 29.13 percent of value,

3) "Turkey" with 903 million Dollars and 11.37 percent of value, 4) "Germany" with 288 million Dollars and 3.63 percent of value and 5) "Russian Federation" with 269 million Dollars and 3.39 percent of value.



Nasser Khosrow



poet, theologian, philosopher, scientist, traveler, missionary

Nasser Khosrow (1004 – after 1070 CE) is an Iranian poet, philosopher, Esmā'ili scholar, traveler and one of the greatest writers in Persian literature. He was born in a village in Bactria in the ancient Greater Iranian province of Khorasan, now in modern Tajikistan and died in Yama Gan, now Afghanistan.

*Nasser Khosrow is considered one of the greatest representatives of Persian literature. The *Safarname*, an account of his travels, is his most famous work and remains required reading in Iran even today.*

Life:

As mentioned above, Nasser Khosrow Ghobadyani was born in 1004 AD, in a village of Bactria in the province of greater Khorasan. He was well versed in the branches of the natural sciences, medicine, mathematics, astronomy and astrology, Greek philosophy, and the writings of Al Kindi, Farabi and Ibn Sina; and in the interpretation of the Qur'an.

He also studied Arabic, Turkish, Greek, the vernacular languages of India and Sindh, and perhaps even Hebrew; and had visited Multan and Lahore, and the splendid Ghaznavid court under Sultan Mahmud, Firdausi's patron. He later chose Marv for his residence, and was the owner of a house and garden there. Until A.H. 437 (1046 AD), he

worked as a financial secretary and revenue collector for the Saliuk sultan Toghrol Beg, or rather for his brother Jaghir Beg, the Amir of Khorasan, who had conquered Marv in 1037. At around this time, inspired by a heavenly voice in a dream, he abjured all the luxuries of his life, and resolved upon a pilgrimage to the holy shrines of Mecca and Medina, hoping to find there the solution to his spiritual crisis.

The graphic description of this journey is contained in the *Safarnameh* which still possesses special value among books of travel, as it contains the most authentic account of the state of the Muslim world in the middle of the 11th century. The minute sketches of Jerusalem and its environs are even today of practical value Dur-

ing the seven years of his 19,000-kilometre journey (1046–1052), Nasser visited Mecca four times, and performed all the rites and observances of a zealous pilgrim; but he was far more attracted by Cairo, the capital of Egypt, and the residence of the Fatimid caliph-imam al-Mustansir Bella, the Imam of the Esma'ili Shi'a Muslims, which was just then waging a deadly war against the Abbasid caliph of Baghdad, and Toghrol Beg the Seljuk, the great defender of the Sunni creed.

At the very time of Nasir's visit to Cairo, the power of the Egyptian Fatimids was in its zenith; Syria, the Hejaz, Africa, and Sicily obeyed al-Mustansir's sway, and the utmost order, security and prosperity reigned in Egypt. At Cairo, he learned mainly under the Fatimid (missionary) Mu'ayyad fid-Din al-Shirazi, and became thoroughly imbued with the Shi'a Isma'ili doctrines of the Fatimids, and their introduction into his native country was henceforth the sole object of his life. He was raised to the position of "missionary" and appointed as the *Hujjat-i Khorasan*, though the hostility he encountered in the propagation of these new religious ideas after his return to Greater Khorasan in 1052 A.D. And Sunnite fanaticism compelled him at last to flee. After wandering from place to place, he found refuge in Yagman (about 1060 A.D.) in the mountains of Badakhshan, where he spent as a hermit the last decades of his life, gathering a considerable number of devoted adherents, who have handed down his doctrines to succeeding generations.

Nasser Khosrow explained that through revelation (*tanzil*), intellectual matters were transformed into a state that could be understood by humankind. Esoteric interpretation (*ta'wil*) is necessary to revert them to their original intellectual state. He also said that one must not be satisfied with the exoteric form but look for the person who can explain the original esoteric meaning to them. In saying this he alluded to the Imam of the Time.

Safarname

Safarname (The Book of Travels) is his most famous work. He visited dozens of cities in about seven years (March 6, 1046 – October 23, 1052) and wrote comprehensively about them, including details about colleges, caravanserais, mosques, scientists, kings, the public, the population, the area of the cities, and, of course, his interesting memories. After 1000 years, his *Safarname* is still readable for Persian-speaking people.

Diwan (Persian: دیوان)

Among his other works, most of the lyrical poems in his *Diwan* were composed in his retirement, and their chief topics are an enthusiastic praise of Ali, his descendants, and al-Mustansir in particular, along with passionate outcries against Khorasan and its rulers, who had driven him from his home. It also explores his immense satisfaction with the quiet solitude of Yumgan, and his utter despondency again in seeing himself despised by his former associates and excluded from participation in the glorious contest of life. Scattered through all these alternating outbursts of hope and despair, there are lessons of morality, and solemn warnings against the tricks and perfidy of the world, the vanity of all earthly splendor and greatness, the folly and injustice of men, and the hypocrisy, frivolity and viciousness of fashionable society and princely courts in particular.

Goshayesh va Rahayesh:

Another work of Nasser Khosrow is the Persian philosophical work "Goshayesh va Rahayesh" which has been translated into English by F.M. Hunzai under the title: "Knowledge and Liberation". The work discusses creation, questions related to the soul, epistemology, creation, and Esmaili Islamic doctrine. From a linguistic point of view, the work is an example of early philosophical writing in new Persian.

It is the same strain which runs, although in a somewhat lower key, through his two larger *masnavis*, the *Rawshanaee-name*, or Book of Enlightenment, also known as *Shish Fasl*, and the *Sa'adatname* (Book of Felicity). The former is divided into two sections: the first, of character, contains a sort of practically, chiefly based on Avicenna's theories, but frequently intermixed both with the freer speculations of the well-known philosophical brotherhood of Basra, the Ekhwan al-Safa, and purely Shi'ite, or ethical section of the poem, abounds in moral maxims and ingenious thoughts on man's good and bad qualities, on the necessity of shunning the company of fools and double-faced friends, on the deceptive allurements of the world and the secret snares of ambitious men craving for rank and wealth. It concludes with an imaginary vision of a beautiful work of spirits who have stripped off the fetters of earthly cares and sorrows and revel in the pure light of divine wisdom and love. If we compare this with a similar allegory in Nasser's *Diwan*, which culminates

in the praise of Mustansir, we are fairly entitled to look upon it as a covert allusion to the eminent men who revealed to the poet in Cairo the secrets of the Esma'ili faith, and showed him what he considered the heavenly ladder to superior knowledge and spiritual bliss. A similar series of excellent teachings on practical wisdom and the blessings of a virtuous life, only of a more severe and uncompromising character, is contained in the *Sa'datname*; and, judging from the extreme bitterness of tone manifested in the reproaches of kings and Amirs, we should be inclined to consider it a protest against the vile aspersions poured out upon Nasir's moral and religious attitude during those persecutions which drove him at last to Yugan. Of all other works of the author, the *Zaad al-Musafirin* (or Travelling Provisions of Pilgrims) and the *Wajh-e-Din* (or The Face of Religion) are theoretical descriptions of his religious and philosophical principles; the rest of them can be dismissed as being probably just as apocryphal as Nasser's famous autobiography, a mere forgery of the most extravagant description, which is mainly responsible for the confusion in names and dates in older accounts of our author.

Wajh-e din

Nasser Khosrow, explains the spiritual interpretation of the tradition of a six-day creation of the

physical universe. He writes about how the story of creation is a symbolic explanation of what happened when God created the universe. Interpreting it literally is something human beings do based on the limits of their intellects. In the scriptures, when it says that God began the work of creating the world on Sunday, completed it on Friday, and then rested on Saturday, it is not a literal account, rather a symbolic one.

When the Prophets shared the story of a six-day creation of the physical universe, it was meant for the people to understand that God was saying that six prophets would come into this world and command people to work. When the seventh day came, God would not command in this manner, but would rather reward them for their hard work.

Book on Mathematics:

Nasser Khosrow wrote a book on mathematics which has now been lost.

He states in his other work that he could: *not find one single scholar throughout all of Khorasan and eastern lands like myself [who] could grapple with the solutions to these problems.*

But he felt it his responsibility to take the task for readers he would never see, 'those yet to come, in a time yet to come'

IRICA chief:

Iran's foreign trade hits \$54.6 bn in 6 months



According to (MNA) – The head of the Iranian customs office (IRICA) Mohammad Rezvanifar put the country's foreign trade value in the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21 to September 22) at about \$54.6 billion. It registered a 4.84 percent growth compared to the same period last year, Rezvanifar stated. According to him, 68 million tons of non-oil goods, valued at \$24.1 billion, were exported overseas from

March 21 to September 22, 2023, showing a 29 percent increase in weight and 2.6 percent decline in value compared to last year's corresponding period.

The IRICA chief went on to say that 17.6 million tons of goods, valued at \$30.4 billion, were imported into the country in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year, showing 11.6 and 8.6 percent hikes in value and weight respectively compared to the same period last year.

Iran's total foreign trade (foreign trade with oil excluded) in this timespan hit \$54.6 billion, weighing about 85.3 million tons, showing a 5 and 25 percent growth in value and weight respectively compared to the same period of last year, Rezvanifar added. He further noted that China, Iraq, and the United Arab Emirates were Iran's main export target markets in this period.

*Europe and China face lower economic growth,
and
other economics stories to read this week*



Ian_Shine_Senior Writer

This weekly round-up brings you the latest stories from the world of economics and finance. Top economy stories: Europe faces lower economic growth; Global debt falls for second year but trend may soon end; China's economy expected to grow more slowly than previously forecast.

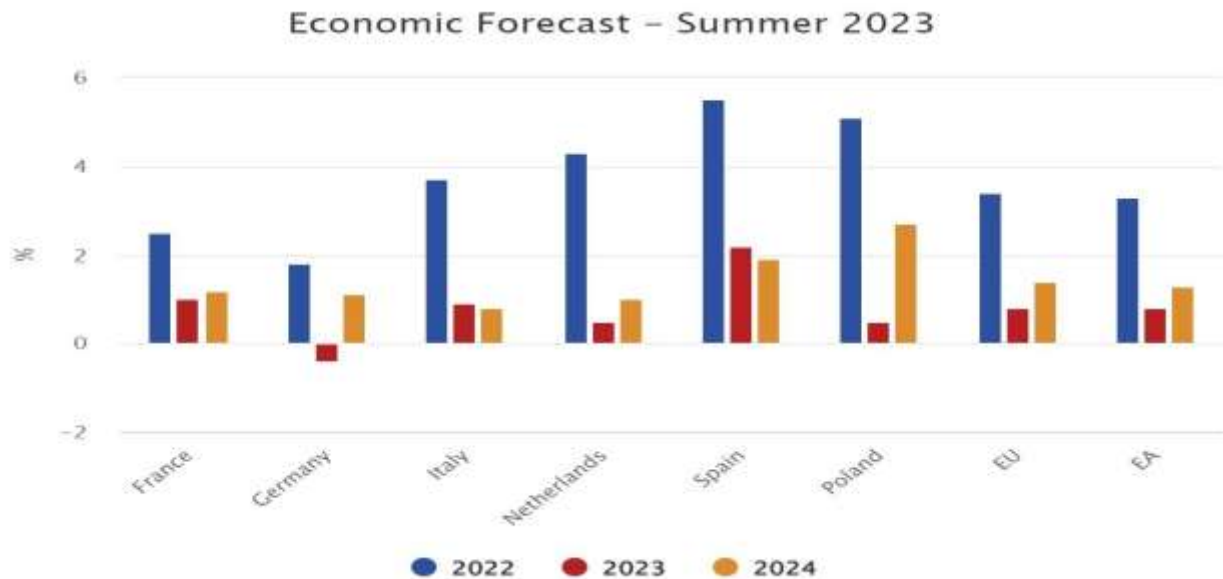
1. ECB raises rates to record level as Eurozone faces lower economic growth

Record-breaking interest rates have been put in place by the European Central Bank (ECB), as the European Commission says Eurozone growth will be lower than previously expected this year following "subdued" economic activity in January-June. The ECB has raised its key rate to

4% – its 10th raise in 14 months – in a move it hopes will make a "substantial contribution to the timely return of inflation to the target" of 2%.

Inflation was 5.3% in July, the European Commission says, but it sees it averaging 6.5% this year. And it has raised its 2024 forecast for inflation to 3.2%, from 3.1% earlier this year.

The Commission has also revised down its 2023 economic growth forecast for the Eurozone by 0.2 percentage points to 0.8%. And it has lowered its 2024 forecast by 0.3 points to 1.4%, saying that weaker growth momentum is expected to continue as tight monetary policy impacts economic activity.



Europe is facing lower growth than previously expected in 2023 and 2024.

Image: European Commission

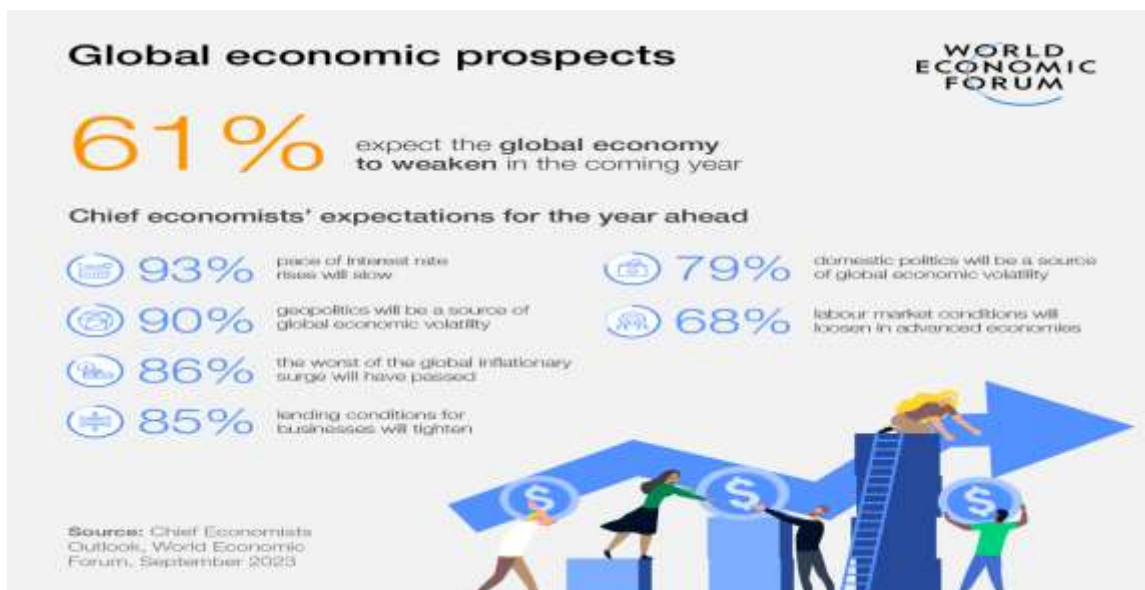
Increasing risks around the climate crisis are also dragging down the outlook, the Commission says. Wildfires thrashed Southern Europe this summer, and extreme heat poses a major threat to the continent's \$2 trillion travel industry. Travel and tourism makes up 6.2% of Europe's GDP.

"The multiple headwinds facing our economies this year have led to a weaker growth momentum than we projected in the spring," European Commissioner for the Economy Paolo Gentiloni says. "Inflation is declining, but at differing speeds across the EU. And Russia's brutal war against Ukraine continues to cause not only human suffering but also economic disruption."

2. Geopolitics to create economic volatility in year ahead

Economic volatility is highly likely in the coming year, with geopolitics one of the main causes, according to the World Economic Forum's new *Chief Economists Outlook*. Nine out of 10 of the chief economists surveyed for the report think geopolitics will unsettle the global economy. Domestic politics could also stoke economic volatility according to 79% of respondents, with the impending US electoral cycle likely a driver of this sentiment.

As a result, 61% of the chief economists surveyed believe the global economy will weaken in the coming year.



The global economy is widely expected to weaken in the coming 12 months.

Image: World Economic Forum

But there is optimism when it comes to inflation, with 86% of chief economists believing the worst of the global inflationary surge will have subsided in a year's time.

The picture varies around the world, however, with the US seen as heading for moderate or lower inflation, while Europe is expected to face high or very high inflation. China's deflationary pressures mean 81% of chief economists anticipate low or very low inflation in the country this year. That said, Asia is seen as having the strongest growth prospects – 92% of respondents expect South Asia to record moderate or strong growth this year.

But hopes of achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by their 2030 deadline are under threat because of the global economic headwinds. Nearly three-quarters of respondents think geopolitical tensions will hinder progress towards global development targets in

the next three years, while 59% expect tighter financial conditions to have the same effect.

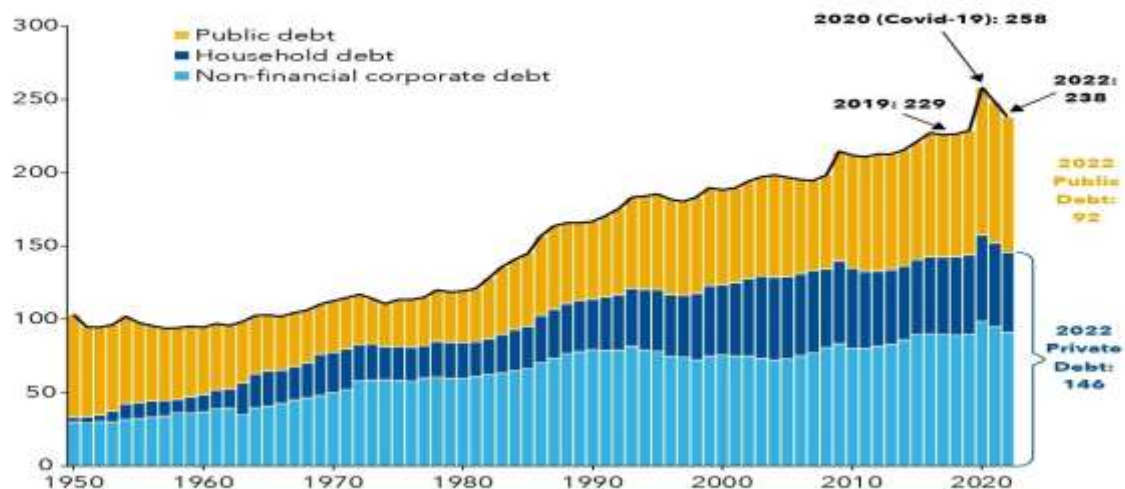
3. Global debt falls for second year but trend may soon end, says IMF

Global debt has dropped for the second year in a row, but it remains "stubbornly high" after accelerating during the pandemic, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Total debt now stands at \$235 trillion, equivalent to 238% of worldwide GDP – down from 258% in 2020, but still above the 229% recorded in 2019. Public debt has fallen by just 8 percentage points of GDP in the past two years, meaning it has offset only half of the rises associated with increased spending because of COVID-19. China has been a big part of this, the IMF says, with its borrowing outpacing its economic growth. China's non-financial corporate debt is also the highest in the world, at 28% of GDP (*see more on the Chinese economy in the News in Brief section below*).

Pandemic blip

Global debt, which remained significantly higher than its pre-pandemic level last year, may return to its long-term rising trend. (percentage of GDP)



Source: IMF 2023 Global Debt Database, and IMF staff calculations.
Notes: The estimated ratios of global debt to GDP are weighted by each country's GDP in US dollars.

IMF

Global debt has dropped for the second year.

Image: IMF

"Fiscal deficits kept public debt levels elevated, as many governments spent more to boost growth and respond to food and energy price spikes even as they ended pandemic-related fiscal support," the IMF says. "Governments should take urgent steps to help reduce debt vulnerabilities and reverse long-term debt trends. Reducing debt burdens will create fiscal space and allow new investments, helping foster economic growth in coming years."

4. News in brief: Stories on the economy from around the world

China's economy is expected to grow more slowly than previously forecast. Growth of 5.0% is likely this year, according to a Reuters poll of economists, down from a prediction of 5.5% in July. Retail sales and industrial output rose faster than expected in August, but a major property market downturn is creating a heavy drag on the

economy – around 70% of household wealth is in the property market. Chinese firms will also face a stricter approvals process when making bulk US dollar purchases, as the central bank seeks to counter rising risks of currency depreciation. The yuan has fallen 6% against the dollar this year, leaving it at its lowest since the 2008 financial crisis. US consumer prices rose at their fastest pace in 14 months in August, climbing 0.6% on the month. Gasoline was the biggest factor, and the rise means annual inflation has risen for two months in a row, taking it to 3.7%. But core inflation – excluding food and energy – rose by its smallest amount since September 2021, meaning the Federal Reserve may refrain from making interest rate rises next week. The UK's GDP contracted more than expected in July, with a 0.5% drop on the month. Heavier rain than normal hit retailers and the construction sector, and hospital strikes also dragged on the economy. But broader signs suggest a weakening economy, with the UK unemployment rate rising and vacancy numbers falling below 1 million for the first time in two years. Russia has hiked its inflation forecast for the next two years to 7.5%, from a 5.3% projection in April, as the economy faces rising costs from its war on Ukraine. The economy ministry also expects the rouble to weaken against the US dollar. The rouble has recently fallen below the psychological barrier of 100 to the US dollar. Argentina's annual inflation rate has hit 124.4%, with soaring prices for basic goods pushing poverty levels above 40%.

Prices rose 12.4% in August alone compared with July.

Japan's annual wholesale inflation – a measure of what companies charge each other for goods and services – fell to 3.2% last month from 3.4% in July. But confidence among Japanese manufacturing firms has dipped because of worries about China's economic slowdown impacting global growth. Corporate defaults surged above average levels in August, indicating rising strains from interest rate hikes and pending debt maturities. There were 16 new defaults last month, far above the 8.6 average for August. The annual total stands at 107 with most taking place in Europe and the US.

5. More on finance and the economy on Agenda

The ocean is the world's seventh-largest economy in terms of gross domestic product, but it is suffering from multiple stressors due to marine and terrestrial economic activities. Companies can accelerate ocean health by pursuing joint advocacy, data stewardship and business transformation.

The global workforce is ageing due to lower youth entry and changing retirement trends. Here are three ways organizations can empower, reskill and integrate older workers into their talent system.

Many financial institutions are using "gamification" and "nudges" to boost customers' financial resilience. Adding game-like elements such as points, scores and rewards to non-game activities such as financial products can guide individuals towards a particular behavior or choice.

Iran exports to BRICS members hit \$9.1 bn in 5 months

According to (MNA) – Iran exported 27.7 million tons worth \$9.1 billion of goods to BRICS member countries in the first five months of 1402 (from March 21-August 21, 2023).

In the first five months of this year of 1402 in the Iranian calendar, nearly 37 million tons of goods worth \$25.1 billion were exchanged between Iran and current and new BRICS members, which accounted for 52.4% of the weight and 57.7% of Iran's total foreign trade. During this period, more than 70.3 million tons of non-oil goods worth \$43.5 billion were traded between Iran and the countries of the world, of which 36.8 million tons worth \$25.109 billion were exchanged between Iran and 10 current BRICS and new member coun-

tries, which accounted for 52.4% of the weight and 57.7% of the total value of Iran's trade (total imports and exports).

Of the goods exchanged between Iran and BRICS, 27.7 million tons of non-oil goods worth \$9.123 billion were Iran's exports to 10 BRICS+ countries, which accounted for 50% of the weight and 47% of the total value of Iran's exports to the world. China with a purchase of \$5.6 billion, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with \$2.3 billion, India with \$845 million, Russia with \$361 million and South Africa with \$51.5 million, were the top five export destinations for Iran's non-oil goods among the 10 current and new members of BRICS in the first five months of this Iranian year.

Gonbad-e-Kavus; Iran's City of rich culture



TEHRAN, Sep. 10 (MNA) – The UNESCO-registered Gonbad-e Qabus Tower, which is one of the tallest brick towers in the world, and the rich cultural heritage of Turkmen people have turned Gonbad-e Kavus City into a must-see destination in northern Iran.

Gonbad-e-Kavus in the center of the Turkmen desert and between the two main branches of the Gorgan River on the south and north side, is located at a height of 52 meters above sea level.

Due to its location near the Caspian Sea, Gonbad-e-Kavus has a humid and mild climate, Located in the Golestan Province of Iran, Gonbad-e-Kavus city is famous for its historical monuments and unique architecture, which attract tourists from all over the world.

making it an ideal location for farming and agriculture.

Agriculture and seed products such as wheat, bar-



ley, cotton, and oil seeds constitute the economic base of this city.

The city is famous for its Gonad-e-Qaboos Tower, also known as the Tower of Silence, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

This tower is a cylindrical brick structure with a conical roof, built in the 10th century. It is one of the tallest brick towers in the world, standing at a height of 72 meters. The tower is illuminated at night, which adds to the beauty of the city. Considered to be a masterpiece of Iranian architecture. The Gonad-e Qaboos tower is the known tower tomb in northern Iran and has been featured





in many public Horse breeding has been common in this area and Turkman horse enjoys a global reputation. Livestock and agro-based industries are the other common occupations in the city. Handicrafts, carpets, rugs, and Gonad’s Qarchin are famous in the city.



The city has a vibrant market where locals sell their products, handicrafts, and souvenirs. The



market ia great place to experience the local culture and try traditional Iranian food. The people of Gonbad-e-Kavus are known for their hospitality and kindness. They have a rich culture and history, which they are proud to share with visitors.

This complex is located in the mountainous areas of Gorleston province, and is a burial site for Khalid Nabi, as well as a host of small and large gravestones.

All these attractions, along with the spectacular scenery of the surrounding countryside, have made this area a major tourist attraction in the north of the country.

Horse racing of Gon: Because the Turkmen horse breed in the area is one of the best horse breeds, the people of Gonbad and the



Bandar Torkaman have long had a friendship with horseback riding. Holding a horse race as a special ceremony during celebrations, especially in wedding ceremonies, has long been appreciated by the people of Gonbad-e Kavus .

The horse races in Gonbad-e-Kavus have been going on for centuries, and the track in Gonbad was once considered to be the greatest track in the Middle East. That title has since been lost, but the Gonbad region is still famous for its horse breeding.

For international travelers who are seeking cultural and natural attractions, this is an ideal part of Iran. They can travel to this area, which is close to the Caspian Sea where local people live a nomadic life and the landscape is amazing. The tourist attractions of Gonbad-e-Kavus have a lot to offer to the fans of the historical and natural attractions of Iran.

Compiled by Marzieh Rahmani

The Ali-Sadr Cave



world's largest water cave

The Ali-Sadr cave, originally called Ali Sadr or Ali Sard (meaning cold), is the world's largest water cave which attracts thousands of visitors every year.^[1] It is located in Ali Sadr Kabudarahang County about 100 kilometers north of Hamadan, western Iran (more accurately at 48°18'E 35°18'N). Because of the cave's proximity to large cities such as Hamadan, it is a highly recommended destination for tourists from all corners of the world. Tours of the cave are available by pedalos. The Ali-Sadr cave was rediscovered by a shepherd from Ali-Sadr village in which the cave is located.

Description of the Ali-Sadr Cave:

Ali-Sadr is the world's largest water cave, where you sit in a boat and watch the view. This cave is located at 48°18'E 35°18'N, in the southern part of Ali Sadr village,

Located in the Hamadan province, north west of Iran. The cave is entered at the side of a hill called Sari Ghiyeh which also includes two other caves called Sarab and Soubashi, each 7 and 11 kilometers from Ali-Sadr Cave. Apparently, the water in Ali-Sadr cave stems from a spring in Sarab.

In the summer of 2001, a German/British expedition surveyed the cave, finding to be 11 kilometers long. The main chamber of the cave is 100 meters by 50 meters and 40 meters high.

The cave walls can extend up to 40 meters high, and it contains several large, deep lakes. The cave has a river f[^] "Ali Sadr Cave". *Atlas Obscura. Atlas Obscura. Retrieved 21 June 2019.* lowing through it and most travel through the cave system is done by boat. More than 11 kilometers of the cave's water canals have been discovered



so far. Some routes are 10 to 11 kilometers long and all lead to "The Island", a centrally located large atrium.

Early occupation:

Excavations and archeological studies of the cave have led to the discovery of ancient artworks, jugs and pitchers dating back to 12,000 years ago. Animals, hunting scenes and bows and arrows are depicted on the walls and passag-

es of the exit section. These images suggest mesolithic man used the cave as their abode. The cave was known during the reign of Darius I (521-485 BC) which can be verified by an old inscription at the entrance of the tunnel. However, the knowledge of the existence of the cave was lost and it was only rediscovered in 1963 by Iranian mountaineers.^[1]



0. Jump up to: Ali-Sadr, Iran's unique water cave - Hamedan Archived 2012-08-30 at the Wayback Machine
 1. ^ Laumanns, Michael; Simon Brooks; Ingo Dorsten; Georg Kaufmann; Matthias Lopez-Correa; Bernd Köppen (2001). "Speleological Project Ghar Alisadr (Hamadan/Iran)". *Berliner Höhlenkundliche Berichte*. Berlin: Speleoclub Berlin. 4: 43. ISSN 1617-8572. Archived from the original on 2013-02-12.

Tourism in the United Kingdom



The British Museum received 6.2 million visitors in 2019

With over 40 million visits in 2019, inbound tourism contributed £28.5 billion to the British economy, although just over half of that money was spent in London,^[202] which was the third

most visited city in the world (21.7 million), behind second-placed Bangkok and first-placed Hong Kong.



Tourists at Buckingham Palace

The UK's 10 most significant inbound tourism markets in 2019:

Rank	Market	Spend	Visitors
1	European Union	£9.33 billion	22,580,591
2	United States	£4.18 billion	4,498,753
3	China	£1.71 billion	883,072
4	Australia	£1.17 billion	1,063,404
5	India	£752 million	692,082
6	Canada	£734 million	874,060
7	Saudi Arabia	£627 million	220,780
8	Switzerland	£569 million	925,727
9	Norway	£436 million	647,460
10	Japan	£369 million	388,839

Effects of the COVID-19 pandemic

The travel restrictions and lockdowns necessitated by the pandemic negatively affected the entire hospitality/tourism section in 2020 with a 76% reduction in "inbound tourism" to the UK that year according to VisitBritain. The January 2021 forecast for the year indicated an estimate that visits from other nations would be up "21% on 2020 but only 29% of the 2019 level". Some increase was expected during 2021, slowly at first; the tourism authority concluded that the number of visits was not expected to come "even close to normal levels". The same VisitBritain report also discussed the effects of the pandemic on domestic travel within the UK in 2020, citing a significant reduction in spending, for an estimated decline of 62% over the previous year. As of January 2021,

the forecast for the year suggested that spending would increase by 79% over the previous year and that "the value of spending will be back to 84% of 2019 levels" by the end of 2021.

Some of the "COVID-19 restrictions" on domestic travel were to be loosened on 12 April 2021 and the UK planned to begin relaxing some restrictions on travel from other nations in mid May.

The latter plan became less certain as of 8 April 2021 when sources in the European Union stated on that a "third wave of the pandemic [was sweeping] the continent"; the B117 variant was of particular concern. Two days earlier, PM Boris Johnson had made it clear that "We don't want to see the virus being reimported into this country from abroad".

*Extreme weather
is
a cause of post-traumatic stress*



Julia Vergin

Anyone who has experienced a flood or wildfire is at high risk of mental illness and post-traumatic stress. The more helpless people are made to feel, the worse it is for their mental health

Many places around the world to have suffered catastrophic wildfires this summer, including the Spanish island of Tenerife .

It is not unusual for soldiers who have fought in a war to suffer from **post-traumatic stress** after their missions.

People who have experienced violence, who have been driven out of their homes or who **have been forced to flee** may also develop PTSD, as can emergency workers deployed to disaster zones to rescue the injured and recover the dead.

Such disasters might be caused by extreme weather events. People may have to fight for their survival, escape from **floods** or **wildfires**,

and even witness others dying. If a person has been acutely and directly endangered by extreme weather conditions and has felt helpless in the face of disaster, they have an increased risk of developing PTSD.

"**Hurricanes** Katrina and Rita have been studied very closely," says the psychiatrist Andreas Meyer-Lindenberg.

Back in 2005, the current president of the German Association for Psychiatry, Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics (**DGPPN**) worked to administer psychological first aide in the US, after Hurricane Katrina caused terrible destruction across several states and claimed the lives of more than 1,800 people.



Hurricane Katrina devastated the southern United States, and the city of New Orleans in particular, in August 2005 *Image: picture alliance/dpa*

"Basically, not every person who is exposed to extreme weather events has mental health problems as a result," Meyer-Lindenberg says. "But there is a significant increase in mental health problems and illnesses after extreme weather events." He explains that almost half of those affected by the devastation of Katrina developed PTSD. While people may also suffer from depression, anxiety and even addiction after an extreme event, PTSD is a direct, causal result of what they have experienced.

PTSD as a direct result of extreme weather

"The definition of PTSD is that an extremely threatening event has been experienced by the person themselves or by someone close to them, and this event is at the center of their problems,"

Meyer-Lindenberg says. A typical symptom is that a disaster is relived over and over again in the form of flashbacks, dreams, and memories. People will therefore try to avoid anything that might trigger these flashbacks. For flood victims, this could be rain.

The psychiatrist explains that this avoidance strategy prevents victims from dealing with what they have experienced, and that consequently they are often unable to overcome their post-traumatic stress without therapy.

Little data is available on the impact of extreme weather events on the mental health of victims from developing countries which are often among those worst affected by fire and flood. "Most of the research has been done in Europe, North America, and Australia," Meyer-Lindenberg says, adding that there is a particular lack of available data from Africa.



Floods returned to Pakistan in August 2023; in Punjab, more than 100,000 people had to be evacuated *Image: Rescue 1122 Emergency Department/AP Photo/picture alliance*

Yet the countries of the Global South have already been dealing with extreme weather events, exacerbated by ongoing **climate change**, more frequently and for longer than those in the north. "If countries have experience of extreme weather, and are better able to deal with the consequences as a result, this can, of course, cushion the impact of such events," Meyer-Lindenberg.

For example, stable dikes not only protect people's **houses and possessions** from floods, they also protect their mental health by providing a sense of security. But good protection against extreme weather events requires financial resources that in poorer countries are often lacking.

More extreme weather can retrigger PTSD

If a person develops symptoms of PTSD, they can be helped with a treatment called exposure therapy. This allows them to confront the trauma again in a safe, therapeutic space, and, in doing so, to overcome it. "It is possible for [it] to disappear completely," says Meyer-Lindenberg. However, people with existing PTSD can be retraumatized if they are **repeatedly exposed** to extreme weather events. The symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder are not reduced the more often a person experiences an extreme situation. On the contrary: "The more often such a person experiences helplessness, the worse their reaction to it will be."

This article was originally written in German.DW

Iran exports pharmaceuticals to 40 countries: official

According to (MNA) – A senior Iranian health official has hailed the country's progress in the fields of medical science and pharmaceutical industry, pointing to the export of Iranian-developed medicines to 40 countries across the world.

Heidar Mohammadi, the head of Iran's Food and Drug Administration, said on Friday that a three-fold increase in the export of Iranian pharmaceuticals bespeaks the country's good interaction with the neighboring countries.

Speaking on the sidelines of the 2023 edition of the Iran Pharma Expo in Tehran, Mohammadi said the presence of representatives from foreign countries is one of the greatest achievements of the exhibition. The three-day exhibition, which is hailed as one of the biggest pharmaceutical events in the West Asian region, wrapped up today.

"Iranpharma exhibition is a very good place to annually showcase and present the pharmaceutical capabilities of our country," Mohammadi said, stressing that Iranian medicines are exported to 40 countries.

"This year, the exhibition was held with more splendor and reception, and fortunately, high-ranking officials of the country also paid good visits to the capabilities of our country's pharmaceutical industries." According to Mohammadi, who is also the deputy minister of health, 427 Iranian and 282 foreign companies from 33 countries participated in this year's exhibit.

"We hope to expand the access of the people of the region to quality medicines at the Group of Five (G5) meeting and in regional cooperation,"



the official said, referring to an initiative that was launched in June 2005 by the Islamic Republic of Iran based on historical, geographical and cultural links and common health problems with three other regional states namely Afghanistan, Iraq, and Pakistan. WHO is also another member of the initiative which aims to enhance and strengthen sub-regional cooperation between members. Tajikistan has also joined as an observer to the G5 mechanism which bears the slogan of "joint work for solving joint health problems."

Organized by the Iranian Pharmaceutical Industries Syndicate, and with the collaboration of the Ministry of Health, the Iran Pharma Expo is held every September, hosting manufacturers of pharmaceuticals, pharmaceutical equipment and machinery, pharmaceutical printing and packaging, recombinant drugs, herbal medicine, food and dietary supplements, knowledge-based companies and pharmaceutical distributors. The international event provides an excellent opportunity for showcasing the national potentials and capabilities of experts and industry professionals in the prolific world of pharmaceutical industries.

*BCC Economic Forecast**To shrink in 2023 before rebounding*

The BCC expects UK economy to avoid a technical recession but shrink by 0.3% in 2023, before returning to growth in 2024; inflation will slow to 5% by Q4 2023.

UK Economic Outlook

The British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) forecasts the economy will not return to its pre-pandemic size until the final quarter of 2024.

The rate of UK inflation is expected to continue slowing throughout 2023, hitting 5% by Q4.

The economy will shrink in 2023, by much less than previously expected, but the recovery will remain weak with predicted growth for 2024 revised down.

GDP to shrink in 2023

In the immediate term, the BCC is now expecting the first quarter of 2023 to see GDP fall, before three quarters of flat or weak growth - leading to an overall contraction of 0.3% for the year. This is a slightly more optimistic outlook than either the OBR or Bank of England's predictions. The BCC also expects the economy to grow in 2024, at 0.6%, compared to the BoE's forecast of 0.25% shrinkage.

The expectation for 2023 has been revised upwards from -1.3% in the BCC's last forecast, due to a more resilient economic performance at the end of 2022.

Household spending held up well, despite a fall in real disposable income due to rising energy costs, inflation outstripping wages, frozen income tax allowances and higher mortgage payments.

Exports were also stronger than expected in the second half of 2022, in part due to fuel and machinery demand, and also trade in precious metals - likely seen as a safe harbour in uncertain times. However, this trend is not expected to continue with a 4.5% decline in exports predicted across 2023. BCC research also shows that while overall export values have held up, many smaller companies are not reporting any improvements in their trading conditions. Despite a big drop in business confidence in Q3 2022, this now appears to have stabilised albeit at a lower level. Business investment has now returned to pre-pandemic lev-

els, although it was not performing well then. With an expected rise in corporation tax coming down the tracks, alongside a business rates revaluation in April, and higher interest rates, this is likely to lead to flatlining investment in 2023 at 0.2%.

Inflation likely to continue slowing

Businesses and consumers will continue to face high costs due to inflation. But the current downward trajectory, following a peak of 11.1% in October 2022, is likely to continue throughout the year, ending at 5% in Q4. The CPI rate is expected to continue to slow and drop below the Bank of England's target to 1.5% in Q4 2024. It is then expected to rise again in 2025, returning to the 2% goal. This means prices will continue to rise, at slower rates, and that they will stabilise at a much higher level than two years ago. Average earnings growth will lag behind inflation until 2024.

The forecast for the Bank of England's interest rate has moderated following the big uptick after the mini-budget of September 2022. The rate is now expected to end 2023 at 4.25%, just a quarter of a percentage point higher than the current rate. It should then fall to 3.25% by Q4 of 2025, though this is still much higher than the historically low rates, below 1.0%, seen for more than a decade.

Investment and recovery expected to be weak

Overall investment is expected to contract by 1.5% in 2023, but business investment will make a positive contribution of 0.2%. Household consumption is also expected to fall by 0.4% and Government spending is expected to increase by 1.8%. The overall picture for 2024 shows a return to growth but only at a level which will see the UK economy finally get back to its pre-pandemic size (Q4 2019) in the final quarter. Net exports, household spending and business investment will all be in weak positive territory, but with the contribution of government spending falling, the recovery will be lacking in strength.

Commenting on the forecast, Alex Veitch, Director of Policy at the British Chambers of Commerce, said:

“Although the economy should now avoid a technical recession, the stark reality is that busi-

nesses face a very difficult year ahead. With the Government having little fiscal headroom for the Spring Budget, it is vital it spends the money it has got wisely. “Businesses tell us they are most concerned about the difficulties in recruiting staff, paying their energy bills and rising taxes.

“We know we have a tough year ahead and there is currently little incentive for firms to risk ploughing their dwindling cash reserves or fresh loans into new projects. “But unless we unlock investment into growth areas of our economy, then the UK will get left behind by our competitors.” The Chancellor must show more faith in the ability and talent of our businesses. If he backs them, by acting on child-care to ease staff shortages and helping them manage their energy costs, then the UK economy could still prosper.”

Key points in the forecast:

UK GDP growth forecast for **2023 is -0.3%, 0.6% in 2024 and 0.9% in 2025**

Following no growth in Q4 2022, **quarter-on-quarter GDP growth** is forecast to decline in Q1

2023 by 0.3%, before flatlining again at 0.0% in Q2, followed by 0.2% in Q3 and Q4

Household consumption forecast is for a contraction of 0.4% in 2023, before growing again to 0.7% in 2024, and 1.2% in 2025

Business investment forecast is to grow by 0.2% in 2023 followed by 1.0% in 2024, and then 1.7% in 2025

BCC expects **exports to shrink** by 4.5% in 2023, before growing by 1.1% in 2024 and 2.4% in 2025, compared to **import growth** of -2.0%, 1.4% and 2.0%

BCC expects **the UK unemployment rate** to rise to 4.5% in 2023, then 4.8% in 2024 and then dipping to 4.1% in 2025

CPI inflation has now peaked and should slow to 5% in Q4 2023. It is expected to further reduce to 1.5% in Q4 2024, before rising slightly to 2.0% in Q4 2025.

UK official **interest rates** are expected to rise to 4.25% by Q4 2023 and then to 3.5% in Q4 2024, ending 2025 at 3.25%.

Iran among five countries producing genetic kits in world

According to (MNA) – Iran is among the 5 countries producing genetic kits across the world despite US-led sanctions hampering the Islamic Republic’s efforts to acquire the state-of-the-art medical technology, a senior Iranian health official says.

Masoud Qadi-Pasha, the vice president of the Iranian Forensic Medicine Organization’s laboratory department, made the statement on Sunday as he pointed to cruel sanctions by the West that prevented Iran from importing genetic kits and the Islamic Republic’s long-time efforts to become self-sufficient in the high-tech field. “We used to be an importer of genetic kits that would not enter the country due to the West’s brutal sanctions,” Qadi-Pasha said. “With the policy of the [Iranian] Judiciary and Forensic Medicine... all genetic kits are produced in the organization, which has made Iran recognized as one of the five countries producing genetic kits in the world.” Stressing that the quality of Iranian kits outmatches that of foreign genetic kits in some items, the officials said, “Today, we have been exempted from exporting 70% of consumables in the genetics sector, and we are trying to produce 30% of the imported items by the end of the year, and to have exports soon after self-sufficiency.” Qadi-Pasha also pointed to Forensic

Medicine Organization’s policy of being up-to-date in scientific fields, saying toxicology laboratories are active in 31 Iranian provinces and two other provinces will soon complete their toxicology labs. Heidar Mohammadi, the head of Iran’s Food and Drug Administration, hailed on Friday the country’s progress in the fields of medical science and pharmaceutical industry despite the sanctions, announcing the export of Iranian-developed medicines to 40 countries across the world. Mohammadi, who is also the deputy minister of health, said a threefold increase in the export of Iranian pharmaceuticals bespeaks the country’s good interaction with the neighboring countries. Iranian authorities have repeatedly blamed the sanctions for a shortage of medicines that treat special diseases such as cancer. Health experts have warned that the harm caused by the sanctions on Iran’s access to medicine supplies may get worse. That comes as the Iranian government has tried to circumvent the sanctions and import the drugs from suppliers that normally charge exorbitant prices. The scarcity has prompted the Iranian medical experts to depend on the country’s domestic capacities and wean the Islamic Republic from importing health products by manufacturing indigenous ones.

Vaping: Government plans underage crackdown



By Jasmine Andersson & Hugh Pym
BBC News

A loophole allowing retailers to give free vape samples to children is set to be closed under government plans to curb their use among young people.

A new crackdown on vape marketing would prevent the "unacceptable" targeting of children and teens, Rishi Sunak said. There will also be a review into the rules around the sale of "nicotine-free" products to under-18s.

Labour called the announcement a "baby step" and said urgent action is needed.

A recent BBC investigation found that illegal vapes confiscated from school pupils contained far higher levels of lead, nickel and chromium than deemed safe. The Prime Minister said he was shocked by this finding. There is now a fast-moving debate on how to tackle vaping by children.

The government plans include a review of rules on fines for shops selling illicit vapes. By tightening the law, it said it would be easier for local trading standards officials to issue on-the-spot fines and fixed penalty notices to shops who sell vapes to underage people. While selling vapes to under 18s is illegal, nicotine-free products can be sold.

The plans have been welcomed by the UK Vaping Industry Association, which said it had been calling for a clampdown for over a year. Its director general John Dunne said: "Unless unscrupulous traders know that selling vapes to children is an endeavour which would be financially ruinous to them, then they will continue to do so."

The government said NHS figures showed a rise in underage vaping, with cheap and colorful products attracting children.

According to the latest NHS figures, nine per cent of 11-15 year olds in 2021 had used e-cigarettes, up from six per cent in 2018.

Two out of five young people said they smoke vapes "just to give it a try", and about one in five because "other people use them so I join in", according to the results of a recent government survey.

Teachers and parents have expressed concerns about the increased availability of the products and that some pupils say they have become addicted to nicotine through vaping.

Under the law, only the sale of nicotine products to people under 18 is banned.

While tobacco products cannot be given out to under-18s for free, this is not currently the case with nicotine products like vapes.

The government said that while most businesses are not carrying out this practice, some rogue traders are taking advantage of the loophole. In the last year, around 20,000 children in the UK were given a free vape, according to data from Action on Smoking and Health (ASH).



An analysis of vapes used in schools showed children using them could be inhaling more than twice the daily safe amount of lead, and nine times the safe amount of nickel.

Last week, the PM spoke about his concern about the rise in vape use among younger people, telling ITV's *This Morning* he did not want his daughters "seduced by these things".

He said it was "ridiculous" that vapes are promoted to children, and pledged to look at ways of strengthening marketing rules.

Announcing the new set of measures aimed at limiting underage vaping, he said he was "deeply concerned" about an increase in children vaping and was "shocked by reports of illicit vapes containing lead getting into the hands of schoolchildren".

"The marketing and the illegal sales of vapes to children is completely unacceptable and I will do everything in my power to end this practice for good," he said.

Chief Medical Officer Professor Sir Chris Whitty called the decision to close the loophole a "very welcome step".

He said vaping was a good alternative for adult smokers, but raised concerns about companies "clearly marketing these products at children".

Linda Bauld, professor of public health at Edinburgh University, said vaping was far less harmful than smoking for children but the longer terms risks were not full understood.

She told BBC Breakfast: "We do know there are toxins and carcinogens in vape products, albeit at lower or trace levels, and if those are exposed to young developing lungs, particularly chronically over a long period, there may well be real risk

associated with that." The latest announcement comes just weeks after ministers unveiled a new enforcement drive and called for evidence on what further steps to take. Mr Sunak's intervention suggests he feels the need to go further.

Pupils will also be taught about the health risks of vaping in Relationships, Sex and Health Education lessons, as part of the ongoing government review of the curriculum.

And a resource pack for schools on vaping is being developed, which will be rolled out online in July.

Intended for children aged 11-13, the educational resource will inform young people about the addictiveness of nicotine and the evidence that their developing brains may be more sensitive to its effects.

The move follows the government establishing a vape enforcement squad last month to increased education around the dangers of vaping in schools, as well as school police liaison officers to remove e-cigarettes.

Health Minister Neil O'Brien called any marketing of vaping products to children "shameful", and said the government would further review the rules to prevent them becoming a "gateway" to cigarettes.

Labour's shadow health secretary Wes Streeting said the government had not backed the party's plan to tackle the problem, and pledged the "next Labour government will come down like a ton of bricks on those pushing vapes to kids". The

Chartered Trading Institute, which oversees trading standards in the UK, said it welcomes the government's announcement, and that the measures "were necessary".

Campaigners are already arguing that it needs a bolder approach with taxation to make vapes less affordable, while continuing to promote them as

an option for adult smokers wanting to quit the habit. Deborah Arnott, Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) chief executive, welcomed the government's actions but said the prime minister's proposals were just "baby steps", and called for a minimum price of £5 to be imposed in order to price out young buyers.

Promoting vapes to kids is ridiculous, Says Rishi Sunak

It is "ridiculous" that vapes are promoted to children, Rishi Sunak has said as he pledged to look at ways of strengthening marketing rules.

Speaking to ITV's This Morning, the prime minister said he didn't want his daughters "seduced by these things". Earlier this week, a BBC investigation found vapes confiscated from school pupils contained high levels of lead, which could affect brain development.

It is illegal to sell vapes to under-18s.

NHS figures released last year found that while there was a fall in the number of school children taking drugs and smoking cigarettes, vape usage had risen to 9% among 11 to 15-year-olds in England - up from 6% in 2018.

In the same period, vaping among 15-year-old girls jumped from 10% to 21%.

A more recent study by Action on Smoking Health found that corner shops were "the main source of purchase and child awareness of in-store promotion had grown significantly in the last year".

Vapes or e-cigarettes are generally considered to be safer than normal cigarettes because they do not contain harmful tobacco.

The government says vaping is "an important tool" to help adults give up smoking and contribute to its target of making smoking obsolete in England by 2030.

However, it also says children should not take up vaping and has launched a consultation seeking evidence on how the appearance and promotion of vapes may attract children.

Forty countries have banned vapes completely, while others have sought to make them less ap-



pealing to young people. Canada, for example, put restrictions on the types of vape flavors that can be sold.

Speaking to ITV's This Morning program, Mr. Sunak expressed concern about children, who are aged 12 and 10, taking up vaping.

"I have two young girls - that's why I worry about it."

He pointed to £3m of funding, announced last month, for a squad of trading standards officers to tackle shops illegally selling vapes to children. He also said he wanted to look at "how can we strengthen the rules on how they are marketed, promoted - what do they look like".

He added: "It looks like they are targeted at kids which is ridiculous - I don't want my kids seduced by any of these things."

Labour has said it would ban vapes from being branded and advertised to appeal to children if it wins power.

The party has also promised to work with local councils and the NHS to ensure vapes "are being used as a stop smoking aide, rather than a new form of smoking".

Top 10 largest economies in the World

The economic health of a country is indicated by GDP (Gross Domestic Product), which refers to the total market value of all the goods and services a nation produces in a given year. The real GDP helps in ranking the countries economically. Fluctuations in the rate of a country's currency can also lead to varying results.

Here is the latest list of top 10 economies of the world:

1. United States

The real GDP of the US is estimated to be \$20.94 trillion. The services sector of the US is much more developed and technologically sophisticated. This fact accounts for about 80% of the total output. Hence the largest corporations and the part played by the firms offering their services in the fields of technology, retail, finance and healthcare play the major role on the global stage.

2. China

The Chinese economy has witnessed astonishing growth over the last few decades. This fact has helped the country capture the much coveted second place in the list of top 10 economies of the world. The real GDP of China in 2020 was \$14.72 trillion.

3. Japan

Based on the real GDP forecast, the Japanese economy ranks third currently at an estimate of \$5.05 trillion. During the 1960, 70s and 80s, Japan's economy was growing rapidly. Nevertheless, Japan's economy had not been impressive after that period during the 1990s. Over the past decade, Japan has been doing its best to grow its economy.

4. Germany

With a real GDP of \$3.84 trillion, Germany captures the fourth place among the top five economies on the globe. After a brief plummeting in 2009, Germany's economy bounced forward with 4.0% expansion a decade back. The years that followed saw the country showing consistent results.

5. United Kingdom

The average annual growth of the UK's GDP between 1999 and 2008 was 2.8%. The growth is most likely to slow down due to a dip in the pri-

ivate consumption and dampening of fixed investments under the uncertain conditions created by the BREXIT. However, with its real GDP of \$2.76 trillion, the UK will continue to hold its position among the top 10 economies in the world.

6. India

Having overtaken the French economy, India sits at the sixth position of the topmost economies of the world with a real GDP of \$2.66 trillion. The Indian economy also has become the world's fastest growing economy among the large economies.

7. France

France's GDP estimate represents \$2.63 trillion. At present over 70% of the nation's GDP stems from the service sector. France is also the global leader in the arenas of automotive, railway and aerospace.

8. Italy

The third-largest national economy in the European Union, Italy has a highly developed market. The country is also well known for its influential and innovative business economic sector, an industrious and competitive agricultural sector. The real GDP of Italy is estimated to be \$1.88 trillion making it the eighth largest economy on the earth.

9. Canada

The real GDP of Canada is valued at \$1.64 trillion, making it the ninth largest economy on the earth. While staying in the ninth position of the largest world economies, Canada is just one place ahead of South Korea.

10. South Korea

South Korea is a highly developed mixed economy and is the 4th largest economy in Asia. The country still remains one of the fastest growing developed countries in the world, following the Great Recession. Based on the real GDP forecast, the South Korean economy ranks tenth, valued at \$1.63 trillion.

The list was made from the estimates compiled by the World Bank World Development Indicators (WDI) for the year 2020.

IBCCIM's New Members

Member Companies:

Moghaddam Co.: Textile, M.D.: Mohammadali Moghaddam, Address: Postal Code: 1316766511, Flat No. 7, No. 14, Falahzadegan Alley, Jomhuri intersection, Vali-e-Asr St., Tehran, Tel: +98 (21) 66468032, Fax: +98 (21) 66467177, Email: chairman@moghaddam.ir.

Pars Behta Asia Co.: Foodstuff, M.D.: Seyyed Mehdi Torabjahromi, Address: Postal Code: 7195741917, Second Floor, No. 181, 4 Alley, Mehr Bulevard, Ghasr-e-Sasht, Shiraz, Tel: +98 (71) 91002282, Fax: +98 (71) 37742477, Email: info@bafoods.com.

Karamay Co.: Import of Paper and MDF, M.D.: Seyed Ahmad Shafagh, Address: Postal Code: 1513746575, No. 40 North, 10th Floor, Bokharest Tower, in the corner of 9th St., Bokharest St., Arjantin Square, Tehran, Tel: +98 (21) 88729890-6 Fax: +98 (21) 88729901, Email: m.bozorgian@karamay.ir.

Baspar Gostar Ariya Eng. Co.: Production of hot melt glue and polymer alloys, M.D.: Mahdi Najjar Disfani, Address: Postal Code: 1915673744, No. 56, Golfam St., Nelson Mandela St., Tehran, Tel: +98 (21) 54695000, Fax: +98 (21) 22024262, Email: info@baspargostar.com.

Machine Sazi Koosheshkaran Co.: Production of Food, Pharmaceutical, Chemical and Health Machinery, M.D.: Mojtaba Naeli, Address: Postal Code: 37514175764, No. 7, Second Sanat St., Shar-e-Ghods, 20 Kilomemter of Karaj old road, Tehran, Tel: +98 (21) 46824240, Fax: +98 (21) 46820215, Email: forosh.kk@gmail.com.

Delta Arouse Masal Co.: Production of Pet Food, M.D.: Mahmoud Agha Balaei Tofighi, Address: Postal Code: 4381699463, No. 48, First Kouhestan, Masa,l Industrial City, Masal, Gilan.

Individual Members:

Saeid Dalvand.: Trading, Construction Equipment, Address: Postal Code: 1461933366, Flat No. 4, No. 48, Shahid Bidaki St., Ashrafi Isfahani, Tehran.

Key Economic Indicators			
Population and Labor Force			External Sector (million USD) (First six months 1401)
Population(1401)	84.7	Million	Current Account Balance 13.366
Urban	64.7	Million	Trade Balance (goods account) 16.653
Rural (1)	20.0	Million	Exports (FOB) 50.659
Population Growth	0.8	Present	Imports (FOB) 34.006
Population Density	51.4	Per. Sq. km.	Total External Debt (end of period) 6.904
Economically Active Population (1401, Q2)	26.1	Million	Exchange Rate (USD/Iranian Rial) Official Rate 42.000
Unemployment Rate(1401,Q2)	8.9	Percent	
Urban areas	9.6	Percent	
Rural	6.8	Percent	
Female	17.2	Percent	
Male	7.3	Percent	
Population of 18-35 years old	16.2	Percent	
Population of 15-24 years old	23.0	percent	
Source: Statistical Center of Iran (SCI) 1- includes non-resident population.			Growth in Monetary and Credit Aggregates (percent) (Shahrivar 1401 compared with Esfand 1400)
			Broad Money (M2) 15.8
			Money (M1) 29.2
			Non-sight Deposits (Quasi-Money) 12.3
			Deposits of Non-public Sector 16.0
Real Sector (1401, Q2)			
GDP Growth (base year 1395)			
Oil	3.6	Percent	
Non-oil	3.1	percent	
Performance of 1401,Q2 (current prices, million rials)			
GDP (at basic price)	27.694		
Gross Fixed Capital Formation	6.067		
Private Consumption Expenditures	11.085		
Public Consumption Expenditures	3.124		
			Tehran Stock Exchange (1401-Q2)
			Tehran Stock Exchange Price Index (TEMPIX) (end of the Period) 1.355.241
			Value of Shares and Rights Traded Rls. 1.520.4 Trillion
			Number of Shares and Rights Traded 350.0 Billion

Source: Central Bank

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Parham Information

Registration Information

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Web Site: www.parhamco.com

Email Address: Info@parhamco.com

Date of Establishment: Nov. 1959



Board of Directors & Senior Management:

Managing Director: Ali Akbar Khodabakhshi, M.Sc. in Civil Engineering, Tehran University, 1971

Chairman of the Board: Sadeh Adib Samii

Vice Chairman: Mohammed Reza Moussavi Kermani

Profile

Parham Construction Company, is one of most prestigious Iranian construction company was established in 1959, ever since it has been a leading and reliable heavy civil engineering contractor in the Iranian market. With having at its disposal, large fleet of construction plants and deep foundation machinery as well as technical expertises, Parham is capable of conducting all types of deep foundation works (even at the hardest conditions onshore and offshore).

Parham Construction Company, is also applying Dywidag System International of Germany (DSI) specifications; equipment and material for pre-stressing and post-tensioning works, related to Tie rods, Bridges, Buildings, Towers, Tunnels, Slope stabilization and other civil application above and underground.

Parham Construction Company, is the first Iranian Contractor for execution of in situ concrete piles with different types of excavation and also piling with soldier pile system, and equipped with different kind of machinery for deep foundation, piling, excavation, and insitu piles.

Parham Construction Company, has successfully completed a jetty and one of the most advanced Caspian Sea rail ferry link-span.

This system has been installed in basin No. 1 of Amirabad commercial port and all complementary design and construction stages were supervised & implemented by Parham's technical staff.

In recent years, Parham with emphasize on his experiences and technical staff, exerted the value engineering and offered optimum plan in big and important national projects, and caused quality improvement, cost benefit and reduction in time of projects. In this regard, Anzali port development (10 wharfs), Amirabad commercial port (9 wharfs) and multi purposes berth in South Pars Energy Special Economic Zone (5 wharfs) could be mentioned.

Field of Activities:

1- Construction of marine structures. 2- Piling & Drilling . 3- Pre-stressed reinforced concrete structures. 4- Heavy reinforced concrete structures.
5- Civil and road construction works. 6- Oil & Gaz.

Qualification:

Class1: In The Field Of Water, Subfield Of Marine Structures.

Class1: In The Field Of Road & Transportation.

Class5: Oil & Gaz.

