

Central Bank: Zionist Regime's Economy Experiences Significant Shock



Mounted police are seen during a protest crackdown in Tel Aviv on March 1, 2023.

AL-QUDS (Dispatches) – The occupying regime's central bank governor Amir Yaron says the regime's economy has experienced a significant domestic shock in recent months due to the controversial judicial 'reform' promoted by the hard-

line new cabinet. "Following the proposed changes regarding the judicial system and the accompanied events, there has been a decrease in Israel's economic certainty as perceived by the markets," the Bank of Israel govern-

nor said in a lecture at the annual Eli Hurvitz Conference on Economy and Society in Al-Quds. "When the certainty in the economy is undermined, then the certainty of doing business is also undermined," he explained.

"This does not mean that within one day the world will stop trading with Israel and that we will not see significant investments in the Israeli economy, but the continued uncertainty has considerable economic costs," Yaron warned.

Zionists have rallied for months to voice their discontent with the judicial overhaul proposed by prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu's cabinet early this year. Protestors say the so-called reform will weaken the judiciary and give the ruling coalition more power.

The warning by the regime's central bank governor came a few days after over 200 leading Israeli economists warned the Zionist regime is becoming a Third World economy.

In their warning reported by Haaretz, the academics cited massive subsidies expected to go towards the ultra-Orthodox school system, as well as bigger stipends for full-time yeshiva students. The current far-right Zionist regime is heavily influenced by extreme religious parties.

Leader... (Continued From Page One)

Ayatollah Khamenei said the expansion of relations is in the interest of the two countries. He expressed optimism about the future of the bilateral ties.

"Cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkmenistan will set the ground for improving the status of the two countries in the changing world."

Berdimuhamedov said he was pleased to meet the Leader of the Islamic Revolution.

"During the past years and during my presidency, I have always used your views and recommendations during my trips to Iran and based on those recommendations, important work has been done. Also, in this meeting, I am looking for your recommendations to carry out big projects in Turkmenistan," he said.

He touched on his talks with senior Iranian officials, saying agreements were reached to develop cooperation, especially on using Iran's expertise in road construction as well as water, electricity, and gas development plans.

U.S... (Continued From Page One)

interest rates, after increasing its key deposit rate by a quarter point to 3.25%. "We are not pausing. That's very clear," she said.

Revised official figures for Germany revealed last week that the country slipped into recession at the start of this year, while concern is also mounting over the strength of the UK and U.S. economies. The technical definition of a recession is two consecutive quarters of shrinking gross domestic product.

Official figures last week showed inflation remained stubbornly high in the UK as households come under pressure from the fastest annual rise in food prices since the late 1970s. Britain has the highest inflation rate in the G7 group of advanced economies, after a fall to 8.7% in April, down from 10.1% in March.

UK inflation figures for May are due to be published next month, with analysts warning that Rishi Sunak's target to halve the inflation rate by the end of this year is increasingly at risk.

Economists said last week that Britain's stubbornly high levels of inflation were likely to push the Bank of England to push interest rates above 5% in order to "engineer" the conditions for a recession to bring down inflation.

Moody's said it expected Threadneedle Street to raise its key base rate by "at least" another quarter-point to 4.75% when the Bank's policymakers next meet in June.

U.S. consumer prices have been slowing in recent months, dropping to an annual inflation rate of 4.9% in April. However, analysts have warned the U.S. Federal Reserve could be forced to keep interest rates at high levels for longer than previously anticipated to squeeze persistent inflation out of the system.

Moody's warned that recent turmoil in the U.S. banking system had highlighted how the rate cycle could trigger risks in the financial system. While strength in the U.S. jobs market could delay an economic downturn, it said this might also risk fuelling high inflation – making it more likely for the U.S. Federal Reserve to raise interest rates further.

UAE... (Continued From Page One)

Earlier in May, the US said it would bolster its "defensive posture" in the Persian Gulf after accusing Tehran of carrying out increased attacks on commercial shipping.

The accusations came after Iran seized two oil tankers in late April and early May in the Strait of Hormuz, including the Niovi, which had been travelling from Dubai towards the UAE port of Fujairah, for maritime violations. Iranian officials said one of the tankers collided with an Iranian vessel and tried to flee while the other was taken into Iranian territorial waters by judicial order following a legal complaint.

According to The Wall Street Journal, the Emirati decision to withdraw came in frustration at the perceived U.S. failures.

Citing U.S. and Persian Gulf officials, the U.S. newspaper reported the UAE was disappointed and had demanded the U.S. take stronger action to deter Iran after these recent incidents.

But the UAE denied in its statement that the newspaper's report was accurate, saying it was a "mischaracterization" of conversations between the two countries.

But Kristian Ulrichsen, fellow for the Middle East at Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy, told Al Jazeera that the UAE's move was a sign of Abu Dhabi's disappointment with Washington.

"The UAE withdrawal would appear to be consistent with the frustration expressed in Abu Dhabi at the perceived lack of willingness of the U.S. to actively protect its partners and re-establish credible deterrence in the Persian Gulf, however unfair that might be in reality," he told Al Jazeera.

Andreas Krieg, an associate professor at the

Defense Studies Department of King's College London, said UAE-U.S. relations were going through "a bit of a rough patch" with Abu Dhabi seeing the U.S. as "consistently" failing to live up to its role as a security guarantor in the region.

Krieg said this perception has pushed regional players to diversify their security partnerships and fill voids themselves where they can.

"The UAE are using the tanker incidents symbolically for a failing U.S. security partnership," he said, adding that the UAE's move was a demonstration to the U.S. that "they are a confident and sovereign nation that can pick and choose, opt in and opt out as they please."

"The UAE is also pushing back against U.S. demands to sever relations with Russia and China... [because] they need to diversify their partnerships from the U.S., including with Russia and China, to serve its security interests," he said.

"The UAE is signaling to Washington in the context of the maritime partnership that the U.S. requires Emirati support as well and that the UAE have leverage in this bilateral relationship as well," he explained.

Mossad ... (Continued From Page One)

allegedly took place at the tail end of an official visit to Italy by Israeli spies.

The occupying regime of Israel and Italy have been seeking to strengthen their ties on artificial intelligence and cyber-security, two areas which may have required input from intelligence services on both sides.

The drowned former Israeli agent, described by those who knew him as a "genius" in the intelligence field, had only recently retired according to the Israeli broadcaster Channel 12. He was named by local media reports as Shimon Erez, though a statement by Israel's foreign ministry identified him only as a retired member of the security services.

Italian security services said the other victims, 62-year-old Claudio Alonzi, and 53-year-old Tiziana Barnobi, were their intelligence agents. A fourth victim, 50-year-old Russian citizen Anna Bozhkova, is understood to be the partner of the tourist boat's captain.

"The two employees, belonging to the intelligence department, were taking part in a convivial meeting organized to celebrate the birthday of one of the group," said the Italian security services in a statement.

Officials in the Lombardy region claimed that a "whirlwind" made the 52-foot boat overturn and sink, while Italian investigators said a sudden change in weather appeared to be the cause of the accident.

The survivors either swam to shore or were rescued by other boats. Local reports said that ten serving Israeli agents were evacuated from hospitals and put on a military plane back to Tel Aviv. They reportedly left in such a hurry that a Ford rental car was left by the lakeside.

There were few details reported in the Israeli press about the Israeli victim, who was described as a Mossad agent by the news website Arutz Sheva.

"Every time we asked, he'd give you a wide smile and say nothing. The most discreet person I've known," one unnamed friend of the agent told Ynet, one of Israel's most widely read news websites.

Lawyer... (Continued From Page 2)

MKO's removal from the list of terrorist group based on their anti-Iran and Islamophobic tendencies.

The MKO also collaborated with former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein in staging an 8-year war of aggression against Iran and its members took part in waging a cross-border offensive against Iran from Iraq after the Iraqi dictator had agreed to a UN-mediated deal to end the war. Iranian forces at the time inflicted a devastating blow to the terrorist incursion and killed most of their armed elements.

The terrorist group had falsely claimed that Nouri was involved in the execution and torture of MKO members in 1988, but he has vehemently rejected the baseless allegations.

Last July, a Swedish court sentenced Nouri to life imprisonment. The court, which was described by Iran as illegitimate in the first place, convicted Nouri of "war crimes and crimes against humanity" entirely based on claims made by MKO terrorists living in exile across Europe.

He has been placed in solitary confinement since his illegal arrest.

During the first session of the court of appeal, which was held at Svea Court of Appeal in the Swedish capital Stockholm in January, Nouri insisted that his trial has not been fair, a statement that prompted the judge to shut off his microphone.

"I consider this court unjust and will not attend the court as long as my problems are not addressed," he said at the beginning of the session as he was protesting the court for not allowing him to consult with his lawyers before the start of the session.

Source: Qatar PM, Taliban Chief Hold Secret Talks

DOAH (Al Jazeera) – The Qatari prime minister held talks with the Taliban earlier this month, signaling a new effort by the Taliban to end its international isolation since they took over Afghanistan nearly two years ago.

The talks took place on May 12, which included a meeting between the Taliban's chief, Haibatullah Akhunzada, and Qatari PM Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani. However,

no details or official readout from the meeting have been released.

According to state outlet Qatar News Agency, Al Thani's visit came in the context of the country's "political role in communicating with various parties in addition to facilitating the relations between the caretaker government and the international community and seeking to achieve security and prosperity for the Afghan people".

According to Reuters news agency, a diplomatic source said United States President Joe Biden was also briefed on the talks between the two countries.

"He had a brief meeting with Haibatullah [Akhunzada]. This is very important because this was the only time that an international leader has met Haibatullah," Al Jazeera's Osama bin Javaid said.

"They discussed a lot of issues, especially security. The Islamic

Emirate of Afghanistan's commitments to the international community also came up. In conversation with some Taliban officials, there were also discussions about women's rights and reopening schools," he added.

The U.S. has imposed heavy sanctions on the country since Kabul fell to the Taliban, including commercial restrictions and freezing its assets, which the group says are making the situation for Afghans more dire.

Imprisoned Egyptian Activist Promises to Escalate Hunger Strike

CAIRO (MEMO) – An imprisoned Egyptian poet has warned that he will escalate his hunger strike tomorrow in protest against his ongoing incarceration.

Galal El-Behairy was sentenced to three years in prison by a military court in 2018 and then in July 2021 further fabricated charges were brought against him.

He has been tortured and kept in inhumane conditions.

El-Behairy began a hunger strike on 5 March and told PEN International earlier this month that he would escalate it on 1 June and refuse to take fluids.

PEN has said they believe El-

Behairy is in arbitrary detention because of his writing, which is critical of the Egyptian regime.

Four years after President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi was voted into power, on 26 February 2018 El-Behairy wrote the lyrics for a song balaha, a derogatory nickname given to the president.

Balaha is a red date and is used to describe people who believe they are wise but are not.

"Oh shiny, brown Mr dates (balaha), four years have finally passed in disgrace," the lyrics read. "For too long we have been with that dummy face."

The song, sung by Ramy Essam,

has received over 7.3 million hits on YouTube.

Shortly after the song was released, the Culture Minister Enas Abdel Dayem, denounced El-Behairy for a book of poems, 'The Finest Women on Earth', which his current charges relate to.

He has been criticized by TV hosts who have smeared him as a foreign spy and called for his Egyptian citizenship to be revoked.

On 3 March that same year, El-Behairy was forcibly disappeared for a week during which time he was beaten and tortured.

The writer is facing an extensive list of charges including being part

of a terror group, spreading false news, abusing social media networks, blasphemy, contempt of religion and insulting the military.

Some 60,000 real or perceived government critics are arbitrarily detained in Egypt. Lengthy sentences are handed down after trials which lack basic due process and detainees are systematically tortured.

Last week, the Egyptian Front for Human Rights recorded that over a nine-month period Egyptian courts renewed the pretrial detention of over 20,000 people on terror related charges and released only three.

MENA Has World's Highest Prevalence of Diabetes

LONDON (Daily Mail) – The Middle East and North Africa region has the highest prevalence of diabetes, research has revealed, with Kuwait and Egypt among the top 10 countries for rates of the condition worldwide in 2021.

The figures from Our World in Data used information from the International Diabetes Federation to measure the prevalence of diabetes among populations aged 20-79 in 211 countries.

Kuwait placed third, with 24.9 percent of the population suffering from diabetes. Egypt came in 10th, with 20.9 percent of people being diabetic. Saudi Arabia placed 18th, with 18.7 percent of the population suffering from

diabetes.

But Mauritania, with a rate of just 2.1 percent, came in at 205 on the list of 211 countries — the only Arab state in the bottom 10.

The prevalence of malnutrition and physically intensive agrarian lifestyles have been cited as a cause of low rates in some African countries.

Research has shown that ethnic groups across MENA and South Asia have greater genetic predispositions to insulin resistance — a trigger for diabetes.

Pakistan, with 30.8 percent of its population suffering from the condition, came in first place. Diabetes rates in the South Asian coun-

try are surging, with 33 million adults living with the condition this year — a 70 percent increase since 2019, with an estimated one-quarter of adults remaining undiagnosed.

Worldwide, the International Diabetes Federation said the condition accounted for more than 400,000 deaths in 2021.

The placement of Western countries on the list, including the U.S. and UK, came in lower than expected, ranking 59th and 136th respectively.

Research has linked the prevalence of diabetes to a range of aggravating factors, including obesity, high consumption of added sugars, high salt intake and sedentary lifestyles.