

First Vice-President Eshaq Jahangiri Says the Government Has Created Over 144,000 Sustainable Jobs in the Rural Areas by Earmarking Over 8,000b Tomans

IRAN NEWS

IRGC on Monday Delivered State-of-the-Art Equipment to Its Naval Forces to Equip Them With Chemical, Biological, Radiological And Nuclear Defense (CBRND) Systems for Defending the Country

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Iran Rejects Europe's "Unrealistic" JCPOA Expectations

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Foreign Ministry Spokesman Seyed Abbas Mousavi says it is unrealistic to expect Iran to reverse its decision to reduce its nuclear commitments unless the European parties help Iran reap the benefits of the sanctions removal.

Mousavi made the remarks on Monday in reaction to a recent statement on JCPOA by the three European countries - France, Germany, and the UK.

"The government of the Islamic Republic of Iran closely monitors the statements and stances held by the European parties to the JCPOA in terms of their compliance with the governments' obligations under the deal and the approvals of the Joint Commission," Mousavi said.

"We emphasize that the continuation of Iran's voluntary measures - which are based on good faith and within the framework of the JCPOA - hinges on the mutuality of the rights and obligations envisaged in the deal," he added.

"Such a path should not be considered a one-way road," the spokesman noted. **See Page 7**

Iran Responsible for Over 70% Drugs Busts in World

TEHRAN (MNA) - Head of Iranian Anti-Narcotics Police said Sunday that Iran is responsible for over 70 percent of illicit drug busts in the world.

Speaking at a regional working group meeting on prevention of industrial drug precursors, Head of Iranian Anti-Narcotics Police, Brigadier General Masoud Zahedian said that "despite unjust sanctions, the Islamic Republic of Iran has managed to take remarkable measures in countering drug trafficking, the results of which are enjoyed by all countries in the world."

He went on to add that "Iran is responsible for over 70 percent of illicit drug busts in the world. In the past seven months, the Iranian police has busted 364 tons of various types of narcotics during operations that left 3,814 of its forces martyred and 12,000 wounded."

"Production of crystal in Afghanistan is a serious threat," said Zahedian, adding "since its revenues are in the hands of smuggling networks which then inject a part of these revenues into the countries' economies."

He further maintained that the discovery of tens of tons of drug precursors by Iran's counter-drug units reveal the extensive scope of the product's trafficking.

No Fresh Payments From Iran To India's Basmati Exporters

NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - In some relief for consumers, basmati rice has become cheaper 12 per cent during the past one month due to an increase in the area under cultivation and cessation of fresh payments from U.S. sanction-hit Iran, the largest buyer of India's aromatic rice.

The fair average quality (FAQ) variety is currently quoting at Rs 72 a kg in the benchmark physical Delhi wholesale market, as compared to Rs 82 about a month ago. With satisfactory progress of monsoon rainfalls prompting farmers to bring in additional area under basmati sowing, prices are set to fall lower going forward.

The ongoing payment stoppage by Iranian importers may pare India's basmati exports to that country, which is facing economic sanctions from the United States.

"Indian exporters are currently executing old orders. Hence, there is no export problem as of now. But, importers in Iran have stopped fresh payments for the past one month, bringing new orders to a complete halt. As long as advance payments to their accounts continue, exporters would face no issues. **See Page 7**

Forex Market Stable Despite U.S. Toughest Sanctions



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Governor of Iran's Central Bank (CBI) says the bank has managed to surmount the toughest sanctions and economic pressures which have been imposed by the U.S. since last year and has passed it.

Speaking in Mashhad, Abdolnaser Hemmati said despite U.S. toughest sanctions, the Central Bank has succeeded in controlling the foreign exchange market. He added that the forex market is currently stable and there is no concern.

He went on to say that the U.S. and its allies were after crippling Iran's economy, adding that the CBI will not let any rise in the forex price and it currently witnesses strengthening the value of the national currency.

Hemmati reiterated that the U.S. was after destroying Iran's national currency and it used to talk about dollar to be traded at 40,000 to 50,000 tomans but it failed to materialize its goal.

He noted that Iran's power in confronting economic sanctions of enemies has now become vivid to the world and sanctions do not have any impact any longer.

He also added that at this stage, the CBI cannot eliminate forex with official rate of 4200 tomans per dollar and it is necessary for essential commodities.

The rial on the open market is now close to the Nima rate, Hemmati said.

Hemmati said that Tehran is serious to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), adding that the government will fund SMEs with more than \$2.4 billion by March 2020.

"The amount of credit paid to the manufacturing sector would increase this year while up to 300 trillion rials worth of credit would be earmarked to the SMEs," he added.

According to reports, each dollar was traded for 12,350 tomans. The dollar rate has nose-dived in recent weeks and there is no sign of attraction among people to rush to the forex market for investing on forex or gold.

Rial has strengthened about 8% in the open market over the past month to 125,350 per dollar.

S. Korea Imports No Oil From Iran in June

SEOUL (Reuters) - South Korea imported no crude oil from Iran for a second month in June following the end of a U.S. sanctions wavier, with Iranian imports for the first half dropping 36.9% from a year earlier, customs data showed on Monday.

South Korea, the world's fifth-largest crude oil importer and one of Iran's major oil customers, stopped importing Iranian crude from May after waivers on U.S. sanctions against Iran ended at the start of that month. South Korean oil buyers mainly imported condensate, an ultra-light oil, from Iran.

Shipments of Iranian oil in the first six months of the year were nearly 3.9 million tons, or 156,155 barrels per day (bpd), down 36.9% from 6.13 million tons during the same period a year earlier, according to customs data.

In total, South Korea's crude oil imports fell 12.6% in June to 11.49 million tons, or about 2.8 million bpd.

Oil shipments from Saudi Arabia, South Korea's top oil supplier, were 3.67 million tons in June, or 893,806 bpd, down 16.2% from 4.38 million tons last year.

Reflecting South Korea's efforts to replace Iranian oil and diversify its crude sources, imports from the United States nearly tripled to 1.09 million tons in June, or 264,745 bpd. It also imported 265,403 tons of crude oil from Kazakhstan in June, up 96.2% from 135,254 tons a year earlier, the data showed.

In the first half of the year, South Korea's crude oil imports dipped 2% to 72.7 million tons, or 2.93 million bpd.

With South Korea increasing its U.S. oil intake, the United States ranked as South Korea's No.4 crude oil supplier in the first half of the year, supplying 7.8 million tons, or 313,387 bpd. This was more than quadruple the intake of 1.81 million tons a year earlier. South Korea is expected to keep purchasing U.S. oil amid ongoing OPEC-led supply cuts and higher U.S. crude oil production.

State-run Korea National Oil Corp (KNOC) will release the country's final crude oil imports data later this month.

Europe Urged to Make Investments In Iran to Save JCPOA

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif says the Europeans do not seem ready yet to put investment into saving the 2015 nuclear agreement with Iran, despite their claim to be willing to retain it.

"The Europeans claim they were willing to maintain the JCPOA, but we have not seen Europe yet to be ready for an investment," he told reporters upon arrival in New York, where he is going to attend a high-level UN meeting.

Expressing one's interest and preparedness to save an international agreement "is totally different from being ready to make the investments required to save that deal and the Europeans have not done that yet," Zarif said.

Britain, France, and Germany in January announced the establishment of a mechanism aimed at enabling non-dollar trade between the 28-nation bloc and Iran, officially called the Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges (INSTEX). **See Page 7**

Iran May Return to Pre-JCPOA Conditions

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) says Tehran is planning to go back to the conditions preceding the landmark 2015 nuclear deal unless European signatories fulfill their obligations.

Behrouz Kamalvandi said on Monday that Tehran's retaliatory decision to reduce some of its commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) is within the framework of the accord which says if one side fails to deliver its commitments, the right is reserved for the other party to reconsider its obligations.

"If the Europeans and the United States do not fulfill their commitments, we will balance out their actions under the deal by reducing commitments and taking the conditions back to how they were four years ago," he said.

He said the JCPOA was supposed to be an "exchange deal" but "what we were giving [within its framework] was way more than what we were getting in return."

The JCPOA was originally signed between Iran and six world powers - namely the US, the UK, France, Russia, China and Germany. Washington, however, unilaterally withdrew in May 2018. **See Page 7**

Saudi Forces Suffer Heavy Losses in Yemeni Retaliation

SANAA (Dispatches) - Yemeni army and popular committees have killed or injured 10 Saudi-paid militiamen in Saudi Arabia's southwestern region of Jizan.

The army's sniper unit, supported by fighters from allied Popular Committees, killed and injured 10 mercenaries east of al-Doud Mountain in Jizan on Sunday, Yemen's Arabic-language al-Masirah news website cited an unnamed Yemeni military source as saying.

On Thursday, Yemeni forces took control of several military positions east of the mountain. Also on Sunday, Yemeni forces targeted with artillery shells gatherings of Saudi soldiers in Arar position in Jizan.

In the nearby province of Najran, Houthi fighters and their allies in the army killed and injured a number of militiamen in an artillery attack in Ajasher desert.

They also fired a Zelzal-1 (Earthquake-1) missile at gatherings of Saudi mercenaries in Soh, which lies between Najran and Yemen's northwestern province of Sa'ada. A number of the mercenaries lost their lives in the attack.

Separately, Yemeni troops inflicted heavy casualties on militiamen in several operations in Saudi Arabia's province of Asir. **See Page 7**

Kuwait Releases Iranian Vessel

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iranian vessel 'Arvand Tide 1000' has been released after 10 months of seizure in Kuwaiti Port of Shuaiba.

The vessel has started its journey back to Iranian waters after 10 months of seizure in Port of Shuaiba and due to unfounded allegations.

The vessel has a 1000-tonne crane, which is one of the key offshore marine equipment in the Iranian offshore industry.

It belongs to an Iranian company, Tide Water Middle East Co., a major port operator in Iran.

Tehran Ready For Talks If Sanctions Lifted

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN – President Hassan Rouhani says Tehran is ready for negotiations with the US if its sanctions against the country are lifted.

President Rouhani made the comment while reiterating that Iran lived up to its commitments under the Iran nuclear deal known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) unlike Washington which withdrew from the agreement unilaterally.

"We did not breach our commitments under the JCPOA. In the Shanghai meeting, two of world leaders said Iran had secured a great political and ethical victory in history. The Americans failed to do anything and have been defeated in all international, political and legal circles. We, the Iranian nation, have managed to display our power," said Rouhani.

He said Israel prompted the U.S. to pull out of the JCPOA.

"It was wicked Israel that caused the U.S. to withdraw from the JCPOA," he said.



"Some reactionaries in the region also acknowledged that the US was under pressure to pull out of the JCPOA. Washington's breach of commitments coupled with the animosity of some of our enemies was the reason behind Washington's pullout from the JCPOA," said the president.

He then touched upon Iran's stance following the U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA.

"We have given the P5+1 countries time. Some of them have taken some steps. The Europeans either didn't want to, or couldn't take any steps. And the US is left alone as far as the JCPOA is concerned," President Rouhani said.

"The world stood up to the U.S., and this is because of Iran's strategic patience," he noted, highlighting the importance of people's resistance to tackle sanctions.

Leader Assigns Clerics to Guardian Council



TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei appointed a new member to the Guardian Council's board of Fuqaha (Islamic jurists) and extended the tenure of two other members.

In a decree on Monday, Ayatollah Khamenei appointed Hojjatoleslam Alireza A'rafi as a new member of the Guardian Council's board of Fuqaha. A'rafi is replacing Ayatollah Mohammad Mo'men, who died in February.

In separate decrees, Ayatollah Khamenei also extended the terms of two other members of the board. According to the Leader's decree, Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi and Ayatollah Sadeq Amoli Larjani will remain in the council for six more years.

The Guardian Council is a constitutionally mandated 12-member council in Iran that, among other things, is tasked with ensuring the compatibility of the legislation passed by the parliament with the criteria of Islam and the Constitution.

AUT, Iraqi Kurdistan University To Increase Cooperation

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Amir Kabir University of Technology (AUT) will sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the University of Zakho in Iraqi Kurdistan Region to expand cooperation with in the scientific and educational fields and hold joint courses.

In a meeting between the two universities' officials, the two sides announced that the MoU will be signed between the two universities to boost academic and educational relations with Iraqi Kurdistan's universities, including Zakho University, Dean of Amir kabir University of Technology Ahmad Motamedi said on Monday.

Amir Kabir University of Technology, formerly called the Tehran Polytechnic, is a public research university located in Tehran, Iran. AUT was the first established technical university in Iran, and is referred to as the "Mother of the Engineering Universities". It was opened in 1958. Amir Kabir University of Technology has grown to be one of the main spots to study engineering in Iran. As a public institution, it is mostly funded by the state.

"We have had good cooperation with the Iraqi universities and some universities in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region in the past, but it can increase," he said. In line with this memorandum, we can have collaborative courses and collaborative projects in common between the two universities. The head of the Amir Kabir University of Technology added that at the present time, this university holds joint courses with reputable European and Asian universities that we can allocate part of these courses to the needs of Zakho University.

Tehran Criticizes U.S. Limitations On Zarif Movement in New York

NEW YORK (IRNA) - Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman protested to US over setting limitations on movement of Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif to some districts of New York, saying it has no effect of Zarif's agenda.

Abbas Mousavi said that as Pompeo confessed in his recent interview, they are worried about the political implications of the Iranian foreign minister's current tour to the United Nations enlightening the New York-based diplomatic corps.

Definitely, putting limitation on Zarif's movement to some districts of New York will have no effect on his agenda, he said.

Zarif usually stays in the UN and also the residence of the Iranian envoy to New York and all interviews and speeches will be held there, he added.

Earlier in a telephone interview with Washington Post, Pompeo said that he granted visa to Zarif, adding that Iranian foreign minister's movement to some districts of New York will be sharply curtailed.

He added: "It's absolutely appropriate that we provide Foreign Minister Zarif and his delegation with all the rights that they are due under the U.N. headquarters agreement, and nothing more than that."

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarid landed in New York on Sunday to take part at Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

Iranian Delegation Due in Pakistan

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Pakistan's ambassador to Tehran said an Iranian delegation is slated to visit her country to address problems that have prevented the two neighboring nations from signing a free trade agreement (FTA).

Riffat Masood pointed to a recent visit to Tehran by Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan and said since the visit, she has been seeking to provide grounds for the implementation of agreements reached between the two countries.

The Pakistani envoy further said the signing of a free trade agreement between the two countries is on the agenda.



She added that in the near future, a delegation from Iran will travel to Pakistan to examine the existing technical problems facing the free trade agreement between the two countries.

Masood went on to say that Iran and Pakistan will sign the FTA after the elimination of those problems.

In his first official visit to Iran after taking office in August 2018, Imran Khan arrived in Iran on April 21 for talks on a host of issues, including ways to enhance cooperation in political, economic, security, and cultural fields.

Iran Registers Five Orbit Points Each Year

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Each year, Iran registers five orbit points which will be left to use by other countries if not used by Iran in the time limit, according to the head of the Iranian Space Agency.

Morteza Barrari said that orbit points are the points registered by different countries in the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) to send radio and television signals.

Clarke belt, which is a geostationary orbit, often referred to as a geosynchronous equatorial orbit, is a circular geosynchronous orbit 35,786 km above Earth's equator all the telecommunications and television satellites are put on.

Barrari said that Iran is seeking to build or buy its needed telecommunications satellites and put them in the registered orbit points.

Students Rally in Support of Zakzaky

TEHRAN (FNA)- Iranian university students gathered in front of the foreign ministry to urge accelerated diplomatic efforts to free Muslim cleric Sheikh Ibrahim al-Zakzaky who is jailed by the Nigerian government.

The students carried placards reading "We are all Zakzaky" and "Free Zakzaky" to criticize the international community's silence on the dire situation of Sheikh Zakzaky who needs urgent medical treatment.

The rallies are due to be held in different parts of Tehran for four days.

A statement issued at the end of the Monday rallies warned of attempts to kill Zakzaky despite his suffering from different diseases for years, and called on the Iranian government, specially the foreign ministry, the parliament and the judiciary to double efforts to free and treat the Muslim leader.

Sheikh Zakzaky, who is in his mid-sixties, lost his left eyesight in a 2015 raid by security forces that left more than 300 of his followers and three of his sons dead. His wife also sustained serious wounds.

Spain Vows to Join INSTEX to Ease Trading With Iran

LONDON (IRNA) - Spain's Foreign Minister Josep Borrell said on Monday that Iran's nuclear deal is of prime importance and voiced his country's readiness to join INSTEX to facilitate trade exchange between Iran and Europe.

The three European signatories pledged to compensate the losses inflicted on Iran through devising the financial channel, officially known as the Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges (INSTEX). The instrument has not become operational yet.

Speaking to reporters at the Foreign Affairs Council in Brussels, the Spanish foreign minister said that Madrid strongly disagrees with the US extraterritorial sanctions against Iran.-Borrel, who is likely to succeed Federica

Websites Review

No Forex for Importing Cigarettes

ISNA* - Deputy Health Minister Alireza Raisi says the Iranian government has allocated \$170 million at subsidized rate to importing tobacco and another \$16 million to cigarette paper.

According to Raisi the subsidized rate foreign currency was meant to be spent on importing essential medical supply.

The deputy health minister made the remarks at a ceremony marking the "No Tobacco national Day."

Raisi said that "the current output of Iranian tobacco factories is around 35 to 40 billion cigarettes, but they aim to increase their output to 80 billion."

Unlike many countries, Iran still allows advertisement for flavored tobacco products, although the Iranian Judiciary has officially declared a ban on such advertisements. According to Raisi, most Iranian smokers live in the Central Province and the provinces of West Azarbaijan, Qazvin and Alborz.

There are many rules and legislations against tobacco use but they are not observed by retailers or government authorities. Meanwhile, "Hookah is used the most in the provinces of Bushehr, Hormozgan, Sistan-Baluchestan and Fars. In southern provinces, hookah use is more widespread among women than men," the Deputy Health Minister said.

Iran to Try ISIL Terrorists, Spies Soon

FARS* - Head of Tehran's Revolutionary Court Moussa Qazanfarabadi announced that a number of ISIL terrorists and environmental activists charged with spying for foreign states will be tried in the near future.

"These people (ISIL terrorists) intended to carry out operations inside the country and at the borders, and thanks God, they failed and were arrested thanks to the vigilance of intelligence forces, and some of them were tried and a number of others are waiting for trial," Qazanfarabadi said. He noted that they had been supported and sent by a number of countries which are infamous for sponsoring the ISIL.

Asked about the case of environmental activists who are charged with espionage for foreign states, Qazanfarabadi said that their cases are being studied and they will be tried soon. He added that they are 8 to 9 people, noting that some of the defendants have been charged with "corruption on Earth", a charge that can carry the death sentence in Iran.

Citizenship to Children By Foreign Fathers

IRIB* - The Iranian parliament is reviewing the granting citizenship to the children who are borne by Iranian mothers and foreign fathers and also the establishment of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Tourism.

The Parliament opening session started with the reviewing of three articles from the Guardian Council.

MPs are also working on a plan for supporting the development of downstream industries for crude oil and gas condensate, by participation if people's investment.

MP Escapes Assassination, Bodyguard Shot

FARS* - Iranian lawmaker and Shiite cleric, Ahmad Salek, has escaped assassination on Sunday when bikers attacked his car in Tehran, shooting his bodyguard.

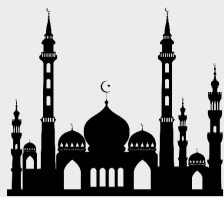
Unknown assailants on motorcycles attacked Salek's car in Tehran on Sunday evening.

The 73-year-old cleric who represents the city of Isfahan in the Iranian Parliament has said that he was in downtown Tehran at around 8:30 pm local time for a television program when he heard "suspicious" gunshots from the nearby streets.

Salek said when recording of the program was over, he once again heard gunshots near the building, and found out later that his bodyguard has been shot in the leg.

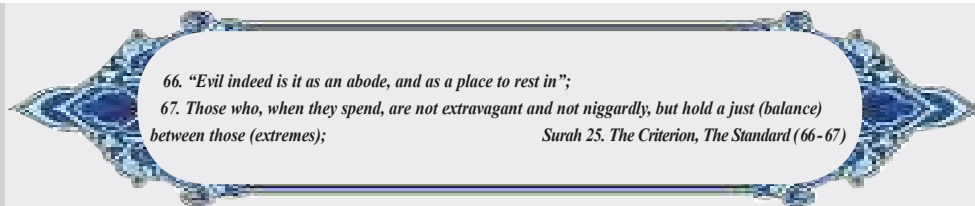
Eyewitnesses say two motorcycles, each carrying two riders, fled the scene after the shooting, he added, noting that his bodyguard has been taken to the hospital and is in good health.

Salek said there is no evidence about the motive behind the attack and it is not clear whether it was an assassination attempt. Salek has been elected to the Iranian Parliament for five terms.



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	13:10
■ Evening (Maghreb)	20:40
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:19
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:01



IKCO Seeks 150m Euros Damages From Peugeot

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK



TEHRAN – The CEO of Iran's giant car-maker Iran Khodro (IKCO) says the company has taken legal action against French car-making company Peugeot and is seeking 150m euros damages.

Speaking on the ceremony for unveiling new product of the company, Hashem Yeke Zare said that Peugeot should pay for breaching its contract with Iran Khodro and the company has claimed 150m euros in damages.

He added that in this unilateral breach of the contract, this was the French side which was a loser, adding that one of the main parts of cars has been manufactured by young Iranians whose result will be unveiled by October.

Yeke Zare added that IKCO wants to become a car-making company and it relies on the domestic knowledge-based companies and Iranian talents.

He added that after the JCPOA, the company signed a good contract with Peugeot, adding that due to the previous unsuccessful contract with Renault company, this time IKCO signed a wise and better contract with Peugeot and manufacturing of major parts of the vehicles were decided to be manufactured domestically. He went on to say that after Peugeot pullout of the contract, activities for manufacturing cars continued without any halt.

Yesterday and in a ceremony, Peugeot '301' production line was inaugurated in Iran Khodro Industrial Group (IKCO) in the presence of Vice President for Science and Technology Sorena Sattari.

Accordingly, 60 percent of parts needed for manufacturing Peugeot 301 will be provided through domestic production, expandable to 80 percent in upcoming programs, VP Sattari said, adding, "some 300 Iranian parts suppliers have been employed for manufacturing parts of this passenger car."

He went on to say that Peugeot 301 sedan fully observes requirements of international standards.

Peugeot 301 is manufactured in IKCO while France's Peugeot Company left Iran in the wake of U.S. sanctions, he said, adding, "earlier, it was supposed that all parts and equipment needed for manufacturing this passenger car would have been provided by French companies."

After France's Peugeot left Iran, this giant project was handed over to domestic manufacturers, the vice president added.

According to the scheduled program, Peugeot 301 passenger car will hit the domestic car market by the yearend. Some 2,123 parts are required for manufacturing this passenger car, 565 of which have been indigenized by Iranian manufacturers, Vice President for Science and Technology added.

Production Grows 1% In Q1 Despite Sanctions

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN– Despite all pressures from U.S. sanctions which aimed to hamper Iran's economy, domestic production has increased by 1% in the first three months of the year, Iranian Industry Minister Reza Rahmani said.

"U.S. sanctions were imposed to seize production in Iran however we are proud to announce that after 14 months of sanctions the sector grew one percent in the first three months of the present Iranian year (from March 21 to June 22, 2019) in comparison with the same period last year," he said.

Making the remarks in North Khorasan, he said that "we did not let production decrease and that is a victory despite the difficulties we had under sanctions."

The minister underlined that the government seeks to increase exports under the current conditions and called for providing the ground for investors.

Heading a delegation, the Iranian President paid a one-day visit North Khorasan in line with the government's provincial tours and inaugurated a number of projects in the northeastern province.

Non-Oil Exports Rise Up

BANDAR ABBAS (Dispatches) - Export of oil and non-oil products from southern port of Shahid Rajaei rose up in the past three months of the Iranian year (started on March 21, 2019) compared with the preceding year.

Director general of port and maritime organization of Hormuzgan province Allah Morad Afifipour made the remarks speaking to reporters in south of the country on Monday.

Oil and non-oil exports witnessed three and 10 percent growth respectively during the period, the official said.

Shahid Rajaei port is the biggest and the most equipped port of its kind that covers 80 percent of container operations in Iran. As Afifipour said, about 19.9 million tons of oil and non-oil products have been loaded onto and offloaded from Shahid Rajaei Port during the past three months.

Meanwhile, some 1,047 vessels have operated to ship the merchandises from the port.

No Sense of Superiority in Vienna-Tehran Relations

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Close relations between Austria and Iran date back to about 5,000 years ago while the two sides have never had sense of superiority or colonial attitudes towards one another, Austrian ambassador to Tehran said on Monday.

Stefan Scholz made the remarks in a meeting held in Tehran on the occasion of day of dialogue with the world.

July 14 in Iran is named day of dialogue and interaction with the world.

Scholz recalled the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, expressing pleasure with signing the international agreement in Vienna.

Iran and the six world powers- U.S., UK, France, China, Russia and Germany-reached a landmark nuclear agreement on July 14, 2015. The United States withdrew unilaterally from the deal on May 8, 2018.

About the Iranian society, the Austrian ambassador said the statistics shows that how

Iranian people are interested in literature and philosophy, the issues which can facilitate Vienna-Tehran bilateral cooperation.

Referring to his communication with a number of Iranian universities, the ambassador said he has found that the Iranian people are enthusiastically eager for dialogue in all areas, particularly in the field of science.

Touching upon Iran's achievements during the past four decades, the ambassador said Iran has preserved its scientific, social and political independence during the years, and the country can be a good example for the Middle East countries.

He further hoped that the era of the arbitrary sanctions against Iran would end.



FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

PERMIT NO : 1398.2251



CALL FOR PUBLIC TENDER (FIRST/SECOND PUBLISH) ONE STAGES TENDER

Subject of Tender: P/F "JEREH" TWIN PUMPING UNIT, SKID MOUNTED

Tender descriptions:

The Tender holder	Registration No. through national electronic tendering system	Tender No. / Indent No.	Estimated value (Rial/Euro)
National Iranian Drilling Company	3/207/394	Tender No.: FP/98-20/038 Indent No.:08-22-9745059	3,875,406,000

Qualitative evaluation of tenders

Method	Qualification process will be done in plain mode in offers opening session according to presentation of valid practice certificate / legal documents (certificate of corporation/ established announcement up to latest changes) which should be related to tender subject (good, supply).
	1- Applicants which have more than 4 in process contacts with NIDC are not allowed to participate in this tender. 2- Applicants which have more than 2 in process contacts with NIDC in similar subject (exclusively same subject) are not allowed to participate in another tender

Purchasing & Submitting

Tender Document Distribution by Company	The distribution of the documents will be started one day after the publishing of second advertisement and ended on the following tenth day thereof (closing date : -)		
	Distribution Place	Hall No.:113, 1 st floor, Foreign Procurement Dept., National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN	
Documents Receiving Method	Submitting Method	Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt in the amount of 510,000 Iranian Rials under account number 4001114004020491 (Shaba No. IR 520100004001114004020491) in name of "NIDC Incomes Centralized Fund" issued by I.R. of Iran Central Bank. Submitting format Request for the purpose of receiving Tender Documents.	
	Closing date	35 Days after the last time of Purchasing. (closing date 1398/06/09) The envelopes will be opened At 9:15 .a.m On (1398/06/10)	
	Address	Hall No. 107, 1 st floor, Tender Committee, Operation building, National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN. Tel: +98-61-34148580 +98-61-34148569	

Tender Guarantee

Value of guarantee	194,000,000 Rial / 4,117 Euro
Type of guarantee	Bank guarantees or guarantees issued by non-bank institutions that obtain activity license from the central bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt under account number 4001114006376636 (Shaba No. IR 350100004001114006376636) in name of "NIDC saving account" by the central bank of Islamic Republic of Iran.
Duration of credit & quotation	Tender Guarantee and quotation should be valid for 90 days and extendable maximum for one time in initial validity duration.

(Foreign Procurement Dept.)

More of this & other tenders are accessible by click on: www.nidc.ir http://sapp.ir/nidc_pr

\$13.8b of Investments Made on Tourism

TEHRAN (MNA) – Some 1.8 quadrillion rials (about \$13.8 billion) of investments have been made on tourism sector, Ali Asghar Mounesan, the head of Iran's Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization announced on Monday.

Making the remarks in his visit to Qazvin province, he added that via reducing bureaucratic procedures, investment attraction can be improved in this sector.

As reported, Iran's travel and tourism sector grew at 1.9% to contribute 1,158 trillion rials (\$8.83 billion) or 6.5% of overall GDP and 1,334 jobs (5.4% of total employment) to the economy in 2018. This is according to the World Travel and Tourism Council's annual research into the economic impact and social importance of the sector.

The WTTC report also shows international visitors spent 168,954 billion rials (\$1.28 billion) in Iran in 2018. The council expects the number of international arrivals to stand at 6.5 million in 2019.

Lately, Iranian authorities have redoubled efforts to boost the tourism sector for increasing foreign currency revenues and creating jobs under the declining economic conditions.

The decline in national currency last year meant that travelling to and shopping in Iran became cheaper for foreign nationals.

Boosting Competitiveness in NICICO By Smartening the Financial System

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – The CEO of National Iranian Copper Industries Company (NICICO) says using the traditional financial systems are outdated in the economic structures of production entrepreneurs of the advanced countries which are in NICICO's type.

Mr. Ardeshir Saad Mohammadi said that smartening the financial system and change in the structures of the units is one of the most important priorities of the NICICO.

He went on to say that by smartening the financial system will increase considerably along with creating transparency.

He noted that in the current condition and in the most optimistic condition, preparing a report on the final cost in the company depends on industrial accounting reports which are presented at the end of every season, adding that in order to compete in the international level, the company needs online checking of reports of final costs of the products which helps the company to monitor all effective factors for reducing the final costs of the products.

Saad Mohammadi noted that in the current condition and with fast management decisions, they could stop the waste of energy and decline in efficiency.

He reiterated that boosting efficiency and competitiveness, transparency and monitoring online final costs of the products are of the major advantages of smartening the financial system in the company.



Defense Ministry to Produce Auto Parts

TEHRAN (IFP) - Defense Ministry has undertaken to produce the critical car components that local automakers need in the wake of pullout of foreign contractors.

In comments on Sunday, Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Amir Hatami said his ministry has signed a series of contracts with the Iranian carmakers, worth around 15 trillion rials, to produce critical auto parts.

The Defense Ministry had already voiced readiness to assist the local carmakers in manufacturing the components whose production has been hampered after the withdrawal of foreign contractors from Iran, he added.

The minister also noted that the high-quality products the Defense Ministry is going to manufacture are required to complete the assembled cars, including engine control units.

Yemen Sides Meet On Hodeida

HODEIDAH (AFP) - Representatives from Yemen's government and Huthi rebels tasked with pulling forces out of the key port city of Hodeida met Sunday for the first time in five months.

The redeployment from Hodeida is a critical part of a ceasefire deal reached in December in Sweden that calls on the government and the Huthis to move forces away from ports and parts of city.

"The joint meeting of the redeployment coordination (committee) meeting started earlier this afternoon," a UN official present at the meeting told AFP.



Trump Can Waive Sanctions on Turkey

ISTANBUL (Reuters) - U.S. President Donald Trump has the authority to waive sanctions on Turkey for its purchase of Russian air defence systems and should find a "middle ground" in the dispute, President Tayyip Erdogan said on Sunday.

Erdogan's comments came two days after NATO member Turkey took delivery of the first consignment of advanced Russian S-400 missile defence system parts, despite warnings from Washington that the move would trigger U.S. sanctions.



Bastille Day Parade Marred by Clash Between Protesters and Police

PARIS (Dispatches) - French police fired tear gas to disperse protesters from Paris's Champs Elysees avenue on Sunday, a few hours after President Emmanuel Macron had reviewed the traditional Bastille Day military parade alongside other European leaders.

The famous boulevard was reopened to traffic as soon as the parade finished, but a few hundred protesters from the grassroots 'yellow vests' movement tried to occupy it.

Macron and his guests had already left for the Elysees presidential palace for lunch.

Police fired tear gas to disperse the protesters, some hooded, who were trying to block the road with metal barricades, dustbins and other debris.

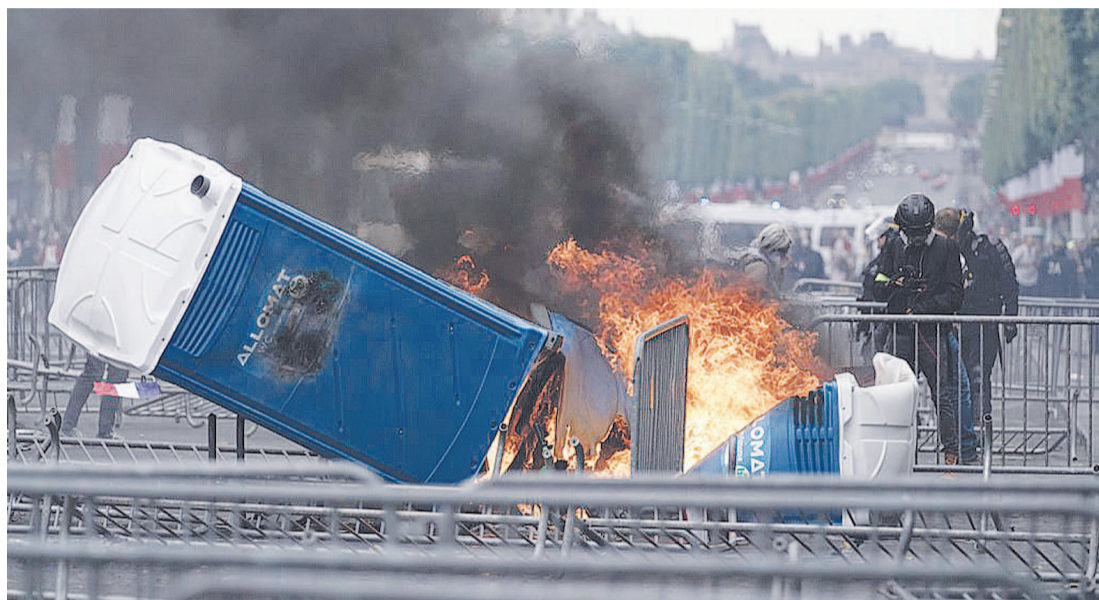
Several loud bangs were heard. Protesters hurled objects at the police, booted and set bins on fire. Police drove some of the demonstrators to adjacent streets where they regrouped and set up new barricades, drawing more tear gas fire.

A video obtained by Reuters showed a man kicking a policeman to the ground from behind and punching him after the policeman had used pepper spray to push back a couple. The policeman and his colleagues fought back with truncheons.

The Police Prefecture said on Twitter it had ordered the protesters to leave the area, or be forcibly removed.

Paris Police chief Didier Lallement told journalists during a Sunday evening patrol of the boulevard that order had been restored. He said some 200 rioters had tried to occupy the Champs Elysees but had been pushed out.

More trouble could be expected on Sunday night when the traditional Bastille Day fireworks is held, Lallement said, while seeking to reassure tourists they would be safe.



Authorities are also bracing for rowdy soccer fans to flood the avenue after Algeria's African Cup of Nations semi-final match against Nigeria. On Thursday, some fans looted shops there after Algeria beat Ivory Coast in the quarter-final.

Paris authorities had banned 'yellow vest' demonstrations near the parade but several groups linked to the movement had called for gatherings around the Champs Elysees on Bastille Day, a national holiday in France.

Earlier a French police source and a court source said 152 people -- whom they linked to the 'yellow vests' -- had been detained near the Champs Elysees as they tried to stage a protest.

The number of 'yellow vest' protesters has dwindled to a few hundred recently from a high of around 300,000 nationwide in November when demonstrations started against fuel price hikes and later morphed into a general discontent against Macron's policies and government.

Dozens Killed, Thousands Displaced in Nepal Floods



NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - The death toll in Nepal from flash floods and landslides in the past three days rose to 55 on Sunday, with dozens missing and injured, the government said.

Ten thousand people have been displaced from their homes as incessant monsoon rains pounded many areas in mostly mountainous Nepal since Thursday, submerging large swathes of land, inundating homes, and destroying bridges and roads across the country.

A Home Ministry statement said 55 people had been confirmed dead and 33 injured. There are 30 missing.

India's northeastern state of Assam has also been hard hit by the floods brought by the monsoon, with at least 1.5 million people displaced and 10 dead. And in the Chittagong division of Bangladesh there have been 10 deaths and about 500,000 displaced as 200 villages have been flooded.

In Nepal, cabinet spokesman Gokul Banskota told reporters that "the disaster has caused a big loss to the economy". The government will make an assessment soon, he added. Nepal Red Cross spokesman Dibya Raj Poudel said the displaced had been sheltered in schools and other public buildings.

Television channels showed roofs of houses submerged in flood waters in the southern plains and people wading through chest-deep water with their belongings on their heads. Officials said in some areas rains had eased but some rivers in the eastern part of the country were still above flood level. Authorities asked residents to remain alert. The Kosi River, which flows into the eastern Indian state of Bihar, was among those that had risen above the flood level.

Nepal police official Ishwari Dahal said all 56 sluice gates of the Kosi barrage on the Nepal-India border had been opened last night for six hours to drain out 371,000 cusecs of water, the highest accumulation in 15 years. A cusec is a measurement of flow, equivalent to one cubic foot per second.

"Its water level has gone down now," Dahal told Reuters from the barrage site in southeast Nepal.

Opposition Figures Arrested During Moscow Vote Demo

MOSCOW (AFP) - Allies of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny were arrested Sunday during a protest in Moscow to demand their names be included on the ballot for local elections in September.

Around a dozen people, including three organizers close to Navalny, were detained late in the day after almost 2,000 people protested against an alleged bid by city authorities to prevent independent candidates from running for office.

The unauthorized protest at the central Pushkin Square was organized by a group of candidates including supporters of Navalny.

While police turned out in force, they initially opted not to break up the rally. Candidates have the right to organize meetings with the electorate without sound amplification or banners. Russia is to hold nationwide elections for local and regional legislatures in September.

Protesters say the electoral authorities have falsely accused them of faking signatures required for independent candidates to stand in September polls. In Russia, candidates outside the large parliamentary parties must gather large numbers of signatures from supporters to be allowed to stand. The details of signatories are then checked for authenticity by the electoral commission.

"Across the whole of Moscow now, they are removing independent candidates," said opposition politician Ilya



Yashin, currently a local councillor and one of the candidates who backs Navalny.

"Starting from tomorrow, the electoral commission will start removing us all from the election," Yashin said before she was arrested.

Protesters took it in turns to knock on the heavy wooden door of the mayor's office on the city's main Tverskaya street to demand candidates be allowed to stand. No one opened up.

Around a thousand protesters then rallied outside the city electoral commission.

Another of the arrested candidates, Lyubov Sobol, on Saturday declared a hunger strike after she was told the number of allegedly fabricated signatures backing her candidacy exceeded the permitted proportion.

Moscow city electoral commission said in a statement Sunday that more than 700 of 4,940 signatures backing Sobol were "invalid". "They are stealing these elections, they are stealing our future," Sobol warned.

India Calls off Moon Mission Launch

NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - India on Monday dramatically scrapped the launch of a rocket that was aiming to land a probe on the Moon less than one hour before blast-off because of a "technical" problem.

India wants the Chandrayaan-2 -- or Moon Chariot 2 -- mission to make it only the fourth country after Russia, the United States and China to land a craft on the lunar surface. Countdown at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre was halted 56 minutes and 24 seconds before the planned liftoff at 2:51 am (21:21 GMT Sunday).

"A technical snag was observed in launch vehicle system at T-56 minute," the India Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said on Twitter.

"As a measure of abundant precaution, #Chandrayaan2 launch has been called off for today. Revised launch date will be announced later." Officials at the space centre on an island off the coast of Andhra Pradesh state said the problem was in the launch vehicle system.



ISRO had announced one hour before launch that the filling of liquid hydrogen fuel had been completed.

The agency did not say when a new launch could be held. Attention on the Indian mission had increased as the launch was to be carried out just five days before the 50th anniversary of American Neil Armstrong's history-changing walk on the Moon.

India had spent about \$140 million on preparations for Chandrayaan-2 and had hailed the mission as one of the cheapest ever.

A landing on the Moon had been scheduled for September 6.

Rockets Kill 6 Civilians In Syria's Aleppo

DAMASCUS (AFP) - Rockets fired by jihadists Sunday killed six civilians and wounded eight others in the government-held northern city of Aleppo, state news agency SANA reported.

It said two neighborhoods were struck in the "terrorist rocket attack" and that one rocket hit the municipal building in the city, which the regime retook full control of at the end of 2016.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights war monitor confirmed the toll, with its head Rami Abdel Rahman saying the number of dead could rise because some of the wounded were in serious condition.

"Jihadists west of Aleppo have been targeting the city since the morning," Abdel Rahman said.

Pro-government newspaper Al-Watan said on its Telegram messaging app that the "army has been responding to terrorist attacks... with salvos of rockets".

It was not immediately clear who fired the rockets that hit Aleppo.

Fighters of Syria's former Al-Qaeda affiliate Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) are deployed in the neighbouring province of Idlib and nearby regions including the western Aleppo countryside. Smaller jihadist and Islamist groups are also deployed in those areas.

Russian and regime aircraft have ramped up strikes on Idlib since the end of April, killing nearly 600 civilians.

HTS fighters and other combatants have responded with attacks on Syrian government troops in the region, including in the northern sliver of Hama province, which also neighbours Aleppo.

Since Russia intervened on the government's side in 2015 the regime has notched up a series of victories against opposition fighters and jihadists who overran large parts of Syrian in the first years of the war.

Indonesia President Pledges More Infrastructure, Investment in Second Term

BOGOR (Reuters) - Indonesia's recently re-elected President Joko Widodo on Sunday outlined his vision for a second term, pledging faster infrastructure development and more investment opportunities to create jobs and growth in Southeast Asia's biggest economy.

Hampered by soft commodity prices, Indonesia has struggled to lift growth above 5% in recent years even amid a boom in infrastructure building aimed at unlocking bottlenecks and distributing wealth outside the populous island of Java.

In a rally attended by thousands of supporters, Widodo said infrastructure development - a key agenda in his first term - would be accelerated to connect ports and airports across the archipelago to agricultural and tourism centers.

He also emphasized plans to improve human resources in a country that is lagging some of its neighbors in developing a skilled workforce.

This would include investing in vocational schools and creating an institution to manage Indonesian talent, as well as tapping the skills of those who settled overseas, he said.

Widodo also promised to open up investment opportunities in a country where red tape and vested interests remain a potent force discouraging foreign capital.

"Don't be allergic to investment. It will create as much employment as possible," he said.

Despite improvements in Indonesia's ranking on the World Bank's ease of doing business index, Widodo has conceded there remain too many obstacles to starting a business.

In May, Widodo said his government had cut to 58 from 259 the number of permits required for power plant investment, but he wants the figure cut to five.

To achieve that, he promised to reform the country's unwieldy bureaucracy.

"Speed of service, speed of giving out permits, are the keys to bureaucratic reform," Widodo said.

"When I see there is an inefficiency or lack of effectiveness, I will remove it, fire the official," he said, to roars of approval from the crowd, adding he would disband institutions that were not useful.

Andreas Sustiono, a 48-year old from a town near Jakarta, who was attending the rally, said it was exhausting dealing with Indonesia's red tape.



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Gheitarieh (\$1700) 3bdrs
All with S/p, S, J, & F.F

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Jordan bldg (\$8000) 20bdrs
Darakeh bldg (\$7000) 15bdrs
All with pkg lots, & yard

Sa`adat abad Apts (\$1300) 150sq.m, 2bdrs
(\$2000) 220sq.m, 3bdrs
Both with S/p, S, J, & F.F

Commercial office Vanak (\$28 per sq.m)
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enough pkg lots, F.F

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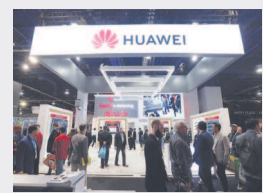
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Huawei Plans Extensive Layoffs at Its U.S. Operations

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Huawei Technologies Co Ltd is planning extensive layoffs in the United States as the Chinese telecoms equipment company grapples with its U.S. blacklisting, the Wall Street Journal reported, citing people familiar with the matter.

The layoffs are expected to affect jobs at Huawei's U.S.-based research and development subsidiary Futurewei Technologies, which employs about 850 people in research labs across the United States, the Journal said.



Iraq, Jordan Seek to Further Boost Economic Ties

LONDON (Dispatches) - Addressing the Sulaimani Forum earlier this year, Iraqi President Barham Salih touted Iraq's capacity to help bring about a new regional order built on cooperation. Iraq, he said, could "be a bridge to the economies of the region by linking the infrastructure between Iraq and the Gulf and Turkey between Iran and the Arab region and the Mediterranean."

Under the leadership of Salih and Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi, the Iraqi government has been expanding efforts to deepen economic relations with neighbouring countries. To the chagrin of the United States, this has included the signing of several economic agreements with Iran, seen as the most influential outside actor in Iraq.

Another country Baghdad has been forging closer ties with is Jordan. In June, a Jordanian business delegation visited Iraq to talk about investment opportunities and the flow of Jordanian products into the Iraqi market. Jordanian and Iraqi entrepreneurs and government officials recently met in Amman regarding digital transformation in the financial sector.

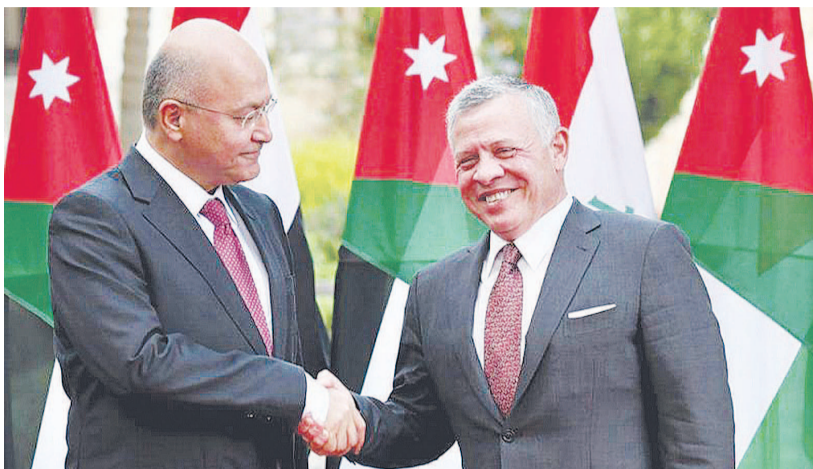
The developments come after months of high-level diplomacy between the two countries. The prime ministers of Jordan and Iraq met at the border in February and agreed on a deal involving oil and other goods.

Iraq would sell 10,000 barrels of oil per day to Jordan at a special price. In exchange, Iraqi goods imported through Jordan's Aqaba port would get preferential tariffs. The office of Jordanian Prime Minister Omar Razzaz said Jordan would export electricity to Iraq within two years.

"The opening of the border will break the isolation that existed," Abdul-Mahdi said in February. "Iraq and Jordan are the lungs of each other and as one breathes, the other will."

Before the border meeting, Jordanian King Abdullah II made a rare trip to Baghdad, the first in more than a decade, during which he stressed the strong ties between the two countries. Salih had travelled to Jordan shortly after his election in 2018. Both visits were billed as part of a shift in relations.

Ties between the two countries have undergone a large transformation in recent decades. Under the reign of Saddam Hussein, Iraq provided Jordan with cheap oil, while Jordan's Aqaba port became a lifeline for imports as international sanctions hit Iraq after the invasion of Kuwait in 1990. The 2003 toppling of Saddam's regime and the rising influence of Iran led to a deterioration in relations in the economic and political realm, especially under former Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki.



As they work to expand trade between them, Jordan and Iraq face significant, albeit different, economic challenges. "Jordan is facing one of its worst economic crises in decades," said Suha Ma'ayeh, a journalist in Amman. "The economy has been hit hard by regional instability and border closures." Other problems, she said, include declining remittances and foreign aid, low levels of productivity and the large influx of Syrian refugees.

The World Bank measured the Jordanian unemployment rate at 18.6% in 2018, a slight increase in comparison to the year before. While noting "renewed momentum" in the economy, the World Bank said more work was needed to improve the investment climate and ease of doing business. It urged the kingdom to diversify its energy supply. In 2018, protests against planned austerity measures backed by the International Monetary Fund spread across Jordan, leading to the resignation of Prime Minister Hani Mulki.

The Iraqi GDP is more than five times the size of Jordan's. Iraq has the fifth-largest crude oil reserves in the world but the country's economy, highly dependent on oil revenues, took a hit when the Islamic State destroyed large parts of Iraq.

We Need a Radical Shift in Thinking



By United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed

On 24 and 25 September 2019, Heads of State and Government will gather at the United Nations in New York for the first global summit on the Sustainable Development Goals since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015.

Our world is at a decisive moment. After decades of relative stability, we are navigating uncertain and even unstable times. Global cooperation is in decline; economic growth rates are down. Some countries and regions are responding by looking inwards, emphasizing division and exclusion; but such short-term thinking will only deepen the global challenges we face.

Many of these challenges are rooted in the economic and social frameworks that we have built over centuries and even millennia, based on exclusion and discrimination. From colonialism to the climate crisis, we are living the consequences of exclusion, intolerance, and a lack of respect for difference and it's killing us.

Inequality is high and rising. By 2030, the richest one percent of people could control two-thirds of the planet's wealth. The rights of minorities and marginalized people, particularly refugees and migrants, are routinely disregarded. Violence is used to enforce patriarchy and millions of women and girls face insecurity and violations of their human rights every day. Military spending is rising even as societies fail to provide basic services for their people.

Climate change is wreaking havoc on some of the most vulnerable countries and regions, while others continue to increase greenhouse gas emissions. Deforestation, overfishing and pollution are causing unprecedented damage. Short-term profits for a few are prioritized over the rights and interests of all.

We have lost sight of our shared humanity and interdependence on each other, and on the planet that gives us life. These principles are shared across all major faiths and traditions, but we have lost touch with them.

Four years ago, all countries came together and agreed unanimously on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, our transformational roadmap for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships. The Agenda is centered on inclusion, pluralism and the rights of all. It is rooted in evidence that greater diversity and inclusion, particularly of women, is correlated with sustainable economic growth and better prospects for peace and stability. It calls for a fundamental reorganization of our economic, political and social systems so that we can reap the benefits of inclusion, through stronger and more resilient communities and societies based on human rights and human dignity for all.

Such ambitious efforts can work, when they are backed by political will. Thanks to multilateral action, today life expectancy is higher, extreme poverty is declining, literacy is at historically high levels and we are mending the hole in the ozone layer. The Millennium Development Goals, precursors to the 2030 Agenda, helped to lift more than a billion people out of extreme poverty, to make inroads against hunger, and to get more girls into school than ever before. But multilateralism may be a victim of its own success. We have started taking it for granted, rather than treating it as an evolving challenge to be nurtured, promoted and reinvigorated. Without multilateral support for inclusive solutions, we are doomed to lose-lose economics, widening inequality and climate catastrophe.

The solutions we need to meet the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda are centered on dignity, well-being and opportunity for all, without discrimination. While these qualities are not measured under Gross Domestic Product, they are critical measures of successful governance.

We all have a part to play. Inclusion starts everywhere people connect: businesses, schools, medical clinics, the media and civil society. We need a radical shift towards solutions based on mutual gains rather than zero-sum thinking; towards security based on resilient, inclusive and more equal societies rather than weapons and stronger borders, and towards economic systems that incentivize the sustainability of our planet over profits made from exploitation and destruction.

Inclusion can no longer be portrayed as an add-on or optional extra: It is an urgent political and economic necessity for our own survival and that of our planet.

Japan Sees Decline In Value-Added Trade Surplus With Korea

TOKYO (Dispatches) - Japan's trade surplus in value-added goods and services (TiVA) with South Korea took a downturn during the 2005-2015 period, reflecting the diversifying structure of logistics and trade, statistics showed Sunday.

In light of the interconnection of the global value chain, the country's recent curbs on hi-tech exports to Korea are likely to affect not only the two countries but also the regional and global economy in general, Seoul's government officials noted.

According to the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development, Japan logged \$135.2 billion in aggregated TiVA from 2005 to 2015. Its total trade surplus during the same period stood at \$303.2 billion.

TiVA, in international trade is equivalent to operating profits of corporate business transactions, figuring out the value added by each country in the production and distribution process.

The OECD indicator was developed to address the dilemma that conventional measures of international trade can no longer precisely reflect the flow of goods and services in the complex global production chains.

For instance, when a Korean customer purchases a Japanese television for 1 million won (\$848), the OECD would exclude the display panel price when assessing Japan's TiVA in the given deal.

With an increasing number of countries participating in the global value chain, Japan's TiVA surplus with Korea has been declining over recent years, data showed.

Tokyo's TiVA with Seoul dipped from \$14 billion in 2005 to \$3.9 billion in 2015, down 72 percent during the ten years. Its total trade surplus decreased 58 percent during the same period, from \$27.3 billion to \$15.7 billion.

Seoul's Ministry of Economy and Finance noted that given the multilateral, globalized trade structure of today, the impact of Japan's disputed export curbs will spread beyond the East Asian region.

"The recent growth of the global economy was partly due to the closely interrelated global value chains," said a ministry official. "Japan's latest actions including the export curbs would result in the severance of such value chains and consequently deliver negative impacts on the global economy."



Britain Facing Highest Risk of Recession Since 2007



LONDON (Guardian) - Britain is facing the highest risk of a recession since the financial crisis and needs urgent plans to combat the next downturn, according to an alarming assessment of the nation's economic health.

Preparations need to be made to reduce the impact, the study by the Resolution Foundation thinktank warns. It states that both uncertainty around Brexit and the global economic slowdown have led to the highest recession risk since 2007.

It raises the alarm over the potential impact on living standards, warning that the five previous recessions have produced an economic shock equating to a £2,500 loss for each household in the UK. They have also increased unemployment by one million. It comes after a series of warnings over the health of the economy amid continuing uncertainty around Britain's EU membership. Earlier this month the governor of the Bank of England, Mark Carney, warned that there had been a "sea change" in the world's financial markets, driven by pessimism about the economic outlook.

The National Institute of Economic and Social Research, one of the UK's leading economic forecasters, said last week that the UK would only "narrowly avoid a technical recession", with growth of 0.2% in the third quarter following a decline of 0.1% in the second quarter. A technical recession occurs with two consecutive quarters in which the economy shrinks.

Meanwhile there have been warning signs in the construction industry. The Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply has warned the political paralysis gripping Westminster has left the industry trapped in "quicksand", with house buying and new orders dropping "like a stone".

There are also concerns that the government and Bank of England have already used many of the tools in their armoury that could curb a future recession. Cutting interest rates to stimulate the economy is hard, as they are already at historically low levels, while quantitative easing (QE), in which more money is pumped into the economy, is likely to have less effect than in the past.

Had those weapons not been deployed during the last recession, in which interest rates were cut from 5.75 per cent to 0.5 per cent, QE amounted to £375bn and VAT was cut to 15%, the downturn would have been 12%. That is the equivalent to £8,000 for every UK household. The Resolution Foundation also warns that it would be dangerous to assume that the next recession will be the same as the last, when major job losses were avoided. It states that it may not be the case that the big unemployment increases that characterised the 1980s and early 1990s recessions have been consigned to history.

German Investments In Russia Set to Smash 10-Year Record

BERLIN (Dispatches) - German businesses poured more than €1.7 billion into the Russian economy in the first three months of 2019, already exceeding half of last year's highest-in-decade figures, the Russian-German Chamber of Commerce has revealed.

The volume of German companies' investment in Russia is up by 33 percent - or €400 million - compared to the same period last year, the German trade lobby said. Results of the first quarter show that German investments in Russia may well, by the end of this year, break a more-than-ten-year record.

"Despite a weakening economic situation, German companies continue to trust in the Russian market and even invest against the trend," chairman of the chamber Matthias Schepp said in a statement.

Last year's total investments reached their highest since the 2008 financial crisis, exceeding earlier forecasts and standing at €3.2 billion. However, it was still short of the all-time high of the €7.8 billion reached in 2007.

Investments continued despite anti-Russian sanctions imposed by Washington and its allies although the restrictions cause much trouble for German firms doing business with Russia. More than 140 companies polled by the chamber said that their total sanctions-related losses had exceed €1 billion, the equivalent to what would amount to multi-billion damages for all German enterprises registered in Russia.

However, Western economic pressure has not stopped the growth of Russia-Germany trade turnover, which increased 8.4 percent and reached nearly €62 billion last year.

Moscow and Berlin are also involved in a large construction project, the Nord Stream 2 natural gas pipeline, set to be finished by the end of the year. The project has come under fierce criticism from Washington, which lobbies continuously for the sales of its own liquefied natural gas (LNG) to Europe.

The US also threatened to sanction anyone involved in the Nord Stream 2 project, but Russia's partners on the project - and Germany in particular - have repeatedly defended the pipeline as a way to meet Europe's growing energy demand.



"Box Man" Goes to London Life-Off Film Festival

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iranian short 'Box Man' written and directed by Manouchehr Teymourzadeh has been accepted into the screening program of the 9th London Lift-Off Film Festival.

The Iranian short film 'Box Man', written and directed by Manouchehr Teymourzadeh, has made it into the lineup of the 9th London Lift-Off Film Festival in the UK. The film narrates the story of a middle-aged reporter who is making a film about a teenager who lives inside a box and refuses to come out despite his mother's pleas. Meanwhile, the reporter gets closer to the world of the teenager and becomes enraptured by his life inside a box.



Turkey Will Deport Syrian Refugees Who Commit Crimes

ERBIL (Dispatches) - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has threatened to deport Syrians found to have broken the law amid a worrying spike in public hostility toward the 3.6 million Syrian refugees sheltering in Turkey.

"We will encourage Syrians to return to their countries," Erdogan said Saturday during a meeting of his Justice and Development Party (AKP)'s Central Decision and Management Board (MKYK).

"We will definitely deport the criminals" and take "new steps" to alleviate growing concerns among Turkey's citizens about Syrian refugees, he added.

Turkey's Immigration Office, which falls under the Interior Ministry, says there are currently 3,644,342 Syrian refugees in Turkey who fled Syria's protracted civil war.

"We had to open our doors to the Syrians. We couldn't ignore it. We took care of them," Erdogan said. However, he is now calling for a mechanism to encourage the voluntarily return of refugees to Syria.

Under strict new measures, Erdogan will abolish free health services for Syrians, forcing them to pay as Turks do, a move that will increase the financial burden on refugees.

Syrian refugees in Turkey face numerous challenges, including poverty, which worsened last year with Ankara's economic woes. Children, in particular, are vulnerable to discrimination and a lack of educational opportunities, according to the UN.

Polling agencies close to the AKP say the party may have lost Ankara, Istanbul, Izmir, and Antalya in this year's municipal election partly because of Erdogan's lenient policies towards Syrian refugees. Since the Turkish military launched the Euphrates Shield and the Olive Branch operations in Syria, around 330,000 Syrians have returned home.

"After the resolution of Manbij and East of Euphrates issues, this figure will reach millions," Erdogan told an AKP parliamentary meeting in early July, referring to Ankara's quarrel with Kurdish-led forces in northern Syria.

More than half of all Syrians have been displaced at least once during the eight-year conflict, many fleeing to Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq. But with neighboring countries creaking under the strain of these massive refugee populations, there are growing calls to send these families back. In the first six months of 2019 alone, some 79,886 Syrians used the Cilvegozu Border Crossing in southern Hatay province to return to Syria, according to Turkish state media agency Anadolu.



A violent attack on Syrian businesses in Istanbul in early July shed light on the divisions in Turkish society over the continued presence of refugees.

Syrian refugees come under similar pressure to leave in Jordan and Lebanon, according to rights groups. Human Rights Watch in early June condemned Lebanon's order for Syrian refugees to demolish their hard shelters, branding it as tantamount to "illegitimate pressure" to return to their war-torn country.

At least 1.5 million Syrians have fled to Lebanon since 2011, many of them living in informal settlements in the country's east. Nearly a million are registered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

"This crackdown on housing code violations should be seen for what it is, which is illegitimate pressure on Syrian refugees to leave Lebanon," HRW refugee rights director Bill Frelick said. "Many of those affected have real reasons to fear returning to Syria, including arrests, torture and ill-treatment by Syrian intelligence branches."

German FM Calls for EU Migrant Redistribution Coalition



BERLIN (Dispatches) - Germany's foreign minister says willing EU countries should redistribute migrants saved in the Mediterranean Sea. Some EU countries have vehemently opposed any form of redistribution in recent years.

Germany should promote a "coalition of the willing" among European Union countries that are prepared to accept refugees saved in the Mediterranean Sea, Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said Saturday.

"We must now move forward with those member states that are ready to receive refugees — all others remain invited to participate," he told the RND media group.

Germany would be willing to make a substantial contribution to the alliance and accept a set share of refugees as part of a "binding" redistribution system, he added. Maas said Germany would make a substantial contribution

Maas, a Social Democrat, said that disputes between EU countries about redistributing refugees "must no longer" impede an agreement on saving migrants from drowning in the Mediterranean. "This blockade must finally come to an end," he said. EU ministers are scheduled to discuss efforts to save migrants at a meeting next week. Maas said he expected "a decisive step" forward in the discussion.

Maas's proposal was immediately rejected by Austria's former chancellor, Sebastian Kurz.

Kurz, whose conservative People's Party is the frontrunner to win Austria's parliamentary vote in September, dubbed the common refugee policy a failure, adding that all Mediterranean migrants should be sent back to their home countries. "The distribution of migrants in Europe has failed," Kurz said on Saturday. "We are once again discussing ideas from 2015 that have long proved impractical."

"The order of the day is rather to remove the business case for unscrupulous smugglers and return people after sea rescues to their home or transit countries, as well as creating initiatives for stability and economic development in Africa," he said. Rescue missions in the Mediterranean have sparked tensions particularly between Italy and other EU countries in recent months.

Hard-line Italian Interior Minister Matteo Salvini has repeatedly refused to allow charity ships that have rescued migrants from docking at Italian ports.

Other EU countries, such as Poland and Hungary, have in recent years refused German-led efforts to introduce an EU-wide system for redistributing refugees who have entered the EU's borders.

More than 420 migrants have died trying to enter Europe from North Africa since the beginning of 2019, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Qatar Opens Biggest Coast Guard Base

DOHA (Dispatches) - Qatar inaugurated its largest coast guard base Sunday as a standoff between Iran and the United States continues to boost tensions in strategic Persian Gulf waters.

Prime Minister Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al-Thani and commander of U.S. Naval Forces in the Middle East Vice Admiral Jim Malloy attended the ceremony at the Al-Daayen naval base in Semaisima, 30 kilometres (18 miles) from Doha on Qatar's eastern coast.

Qatar, a key U.S. ally in the region, is home to Washington's largest Middle East military base.

Malloy, commander of the U.S. Fifth Fleet based in Bahrain, said the new base was "a wonderful opportunity for us to interface more strongly with the Qatari coast guard".

Tensions in the Persian Gulf -- through which nearly a third of the world's oil is transported -- have spiked in recent weeks, with the US blaming Iran for multiple attacks



on tanker ships in the region and Tehran shooting down an American drone.

The 600,000-plus square-metre site aims to "facilitate the securing of all territorial waters of the State and border posts", the interior ministry wrote on Twitter.

It includes a "sophisticated seaport", training and medical facilities, civil defence offices and operating rooms, the ministry added.

Asked whether the base could enhance U.S.-Qatari coordination on Iran, Malloy said the move was "all about maritime security, that's what our focus is".

The U.S. said Thursday it was discussing military escorts for vessels in the Persian Gulf a day after armed Iranian boats allegedly threatened a British oil tanker in the Strait of Hormuz. And on Friday Britain said it was sending a second warship to the Persian Gulf and raising the alert level in the oil-rich region after Iranian gunboats threatened a UK supertanker.

Europe Urged...

FROM PAGE 1

The apparatus is supposed to circumvent the sanctions that the United States began re-imposing against Iran after leaving the 2015 nuclear deal with the Islamic Republic, the E3, and Russia and China.

Europe says 10 European states as well as some non-EU member states will join the trade instrument and use the apparatus for business purposes with the Islamic Republic.

The trade channel came into force after Iran complained why the European countries did not keep up their trade with the country as the nuclear deal mandates them to, and instead bow under the US sanctions targeting the Islamic Republic

In his Sunday remarks, Zarif also referred to the recent meeting of the UN Security Council and a meeting of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and described them as a proof of the U.S.' isolation in the world. "In all these meetings, the U.S.' unilateral policies have been condemned; now it's time for Washington to return to the international community," he added.

Iran May Return...

FROM PAGE 1

All the other parties to the deal have been critical of Washington's move and have been holding meetings with Tehran to discuss how they can make the pact work properly for the Iranian side as well, but the talks have made little progress.

Tehran has said it would potentially scrap the deal if the remaining signatories -- mainly the UK, France and Germany -- fail to deliver on pledges to protect bilateral trade from US sanctions against Iran.

In May, a year after the U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to abandon the deal, Iran suspended some of its commitments under Articles 26 and 36 of the JCPOA, giving the other signatories a first 60-day deadline to turn their verbal support for the accord into concrete action. "Iran's decision to reduce its JCPOA commitments was not out of intransigence and rather aims to give diplomacy a chance and make the other party come to its senses and act upon its obligations," Kamalvandi said Monday.

He added that Iran's uranium stockpile surpassed 300 kilograms after the 60-day ultimatum to Europeans and Tehran was no longer obliged to export the surplus heavy water anymore as it was required under the deal.

"Currently, we have gone beyond 3.67 percent [uranium] enrichment and are also producing the enriched material required for nuclear plant fuel with 4.5-percent purity," he added. Meanwhile, British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt said Monday that there was still time to preserve the JCPOA and that, despite the United States being Britain's closest ally, it disagreed on how to approach the issue. "There is still some closing, but small window to keep the deal alive," Hunt told reporters on arrival for a foreign minister's meeting in Brussels.

France's Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian also said that Europe had to remain united in trying to save the nuclear deal, calling on Tehran to reverse its decision not to comply with parts of the accord.

"The Europeans have to stay united on this issue," Le Drian told reporters in Brussels on Monday. Iran has made it clear that it would only reverse the decision once the other parties deliver their end of the bargain.

Iran Rejects...

FROM PAGE 1

"Iran expects the European parties to the JCPOA to take practical, effective, and responsible decisions and steps regarding the process of implementing the 2015 nuclear deal," he added.

"It would be unrealistic and in violation of the goals, logic, and contents of the JCPOA to expect Iran to return to the situation before May 8, 2019 unless it is proved that the European parties have a serious political will and the practical ability to create a balance in implementing the JCPOA commitments and helping Iran reap the benefits of the sanctions removal as enshrined in the JCPOA."

"We reiterate that as long as the other parties remain committed [to the deal], we will remain committed to the same extent," he added.

Mousavi's comments came as the European Union's Foreign Affairs Council is holding a meeting with a key focus on the issue of saving the Iran nuclear deal.

Upon arrival at the Foreign Affairs Council on Monday, EU Foreign Policy Chief Federica Mogherini said the EU officials are going to "see how we can together with all the Member States and with the rest of our international partners preserve the nuclear deal [Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action] with Iran."

"We will start with a point on Iran. We will see how we can together with all the Member States and with the rest of our international partners preserve the nuclear deal [Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action] with Iran," Mogherini added.

She also noted that the participants will "put in place all the measures so that Iran can go back to full compliance as it has been until a few days ago."

No Fresh Payments...

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But, fresh exports would be difficult. Indian markets have already started responding to Iran's payment stoppage, and basmati prices shed Rs 10 a kg or 12 per cent the past one month," said Sushil Jain, Vice President, All India Rice Exporters' Association (AIREA).

Informed sources said advance amounts of Rs 1,800 crore received from Iranian importers are lying in various banks accounts held by the Iranians in India. India's basmati rice exporters would continue till payments from these accounts are exhausted.

"Basmati prices have declined in the last one month. But, future price movement would depend upon the progress of this year's monsoon rain and farmers' interest in sowing of basmati paddy," said Anand Goyal, Owner, Akash Rice Mills, a Delhi-based basmati rice miller, trader and exporter. Meanwhile, India's two commodity exchanges, National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) and Indian Commodity Exchange (ICEX) have started futures trading in 1,121 varieties of basmati. The ongoing uncertainty and price volatility offer immense opportunities for traders, exporters and rice mills to hedge their price risk in futures.

Being a compulsory delivery contract with small trading unit of 10 tonnes and basic delivery centres in Karnal and Haryana, basmati paddy is trading at about Rs 42 a kg in the futures market. "Apart from the Iran issue, Indian basmati rice exporters are also facing phytosanitary issues with the European Union, which poses a threat to ongoing exports. While there are negotiations with the European Union on pesticide residue issues, overall basmati exports may decline this year," said Gurnam Arora, Joint Managing Director, Kohinoor Foods Ltd, the producer of Kohinoor brand basmati rice.

Basmati prices have been volatile the past few months. Prices fell when the US withdrew the waiver on India's dealings with Iran, then rose and are falling again.

Sanjit Prasad, MD & CEO, ICES, said, "Basmati exhibits large price volatility, and could impact market participants to the point of business closure. The futures contracts in 1,121 varieties will help them deal with price uncertainty." India produces some 6.5 million tons of basmati rice, two-thirds of which are exported. Iran is the largest buyer of basmati rice, contributing nearly 25 per cent of India's annual basmati exports.

Saudi Forces...

FROM PAGE 1

According to al-Masirah, an attempt by Saudi mercenaries to storm positions held by the Yemeni troops was foiled in Majaza al-Sharqiya in Asir.

They thwarted another attempt by Saudi-backed militants to advance near the Alab crossing in the southwestern region. An unspecified number of mercenaries were killed or wounded when Yemeni forces attacked their positions in Majaza al-Gharbiya in Asir on Sunday.

Yemeni forces have been carrying out attacks against Saudi positions in retaliation for the kingdom's aggression on their country. Saudi Arabia launched a devastating campaign against Yemen in March 2015, with the goal of bringing the government of former Yemeni president Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi back to power and crushing the Houthis movement.

Vettel Apologizes To Verstappen

LONDON (Dispatches) - Sebastian Vettel apologised to Max Verstappen immediately after Sunday's British Grand Prix, acknowledging that he had ruined his rival's hopes of claiming a podium finish.

Ferrari driver Vettel drove into the back of Verstappen's Red Bull after the Dutchman had passed him. Both cars spun off into the gravel before rejoining the race. "Well, it was my mistake," said Vettel, who climbed out of his car at the end of the race and went to speak to Verstappen. He leaned into the Red Bull car's cockpit, shook hands and apologised.

IRAN NEWS

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Mihajlovic Announces Battle With Leukaemia

MILAN (Reuters) - Bologna coach Sinisa Mihajlovic said on Saturday that he had a severe form of leukaemia but that he was sure he would win the battle.

Mihajlovic said in a news conference at the Serie A team's headquarters that his condition was treatable and that he would be in hospital from Tuesday. "I always play to win, both in football and in life. I'll defeat Leukaemia," the former Lazio and Inter Milan defender said, holding back tears. "It will take time but I'll recover," he added.

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SPORTS

TUESDAY, JULY 16, 2019

Hamilton Wins Record Sixth British GP

LONDON (Dispatches) - Lewis Hamilton made the most of a favourable safety car intervention on Sunday to claim a record sixth British Grand Prix victory at a packed Silverstone.

The defending five-time world champion clocking fastest lap on his final lap to finish 25 seconds clear of Mercedes team-mate and nearest title rival Valtteri Bottas after an action-packed contest. The Briton moved 39 points clear of the Finn behind in the title race, but Bottas was unlucky with the timing of the safety car which effectively gave Hamilton a free pit stop.

Charles Leclerc of Ferrari was third.

Pierre Gasly finished fourth ahead of his Red Bull team-mate Max Verstappen, whose race was compromised by a late collision when Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari drove into him, and Carlos Sainz of McLaren.

It was Hamilton's seventh win in 10 races this year and the 80th win of his career. He had shared the British Grand Prix record of wins, on five, with fellow-Briton Jim Clark and Frenchman Alain Prost.

Daniel Ricciardo was seventh for Renault ahead of Kimi Raikkonen of Alfa Romeo, Daniil Kvyat and his Toro Rosso team-mate Alex Albon.

"What a day," said Hamilton. "To all the crowd, thank-you so much for coming out."

Hamilton, who stopped on his slow-down lap to collect a British 'Union Jack' flag, added: "I love you Silverstone. I appreciate everything and the opportunity to be a part of this. "I couldn't have done this without these guys or without my team."

A glum Bottas said: "Congrats to Lewis... It wasn't my day."

A much happier Leclerc said: "It's probably the race I've enjoyed the most in my career."

The safety car was deployed when Antonio Giovinazzi spun into a gravel trap in his Alfa Romeo, gifting Hamilton a 'free' first, and only, pit stop. The luckless Bottas, on a two stop strategy, had already pitted before the incident.

On an overcast and cool afternoon, Justin Whiting, the 12-year-old son of the late Charlie Whiting, the official Race Director who died suddenly in Melbourne in March, started the race. before a crowd of 141,000 at Silverstone. As the lights went out, the Mercedes pair pulled clear, Hamilton chasing Bottas throughout the first lap ahead of Leclerc and Verstappen with Vettel fifth.

By lap 10, the lead was three-tenths, Hamilton oozing confidence could not pass Bottas slithering to protect his lead. Behind them, Leclerc blocked attacks from Verstappen. But on lap 17, Bottas came in for a new set of mediums and Hamilton inherited the lead ahead of Vettel, the pair delaying their stops as long as possible. Then Giovinazzi beached his Alfa Romeo at Club.

Djokovic Claims Fifth Wimbledon Title in Record-Breaking Final



LONDON (Dispatches) - Novak Djokovic saved two match points to clinch a fifth Wimbledon title and 16th major on Sunday, shattering Roger Federer's bid to become the oldest Grand Slam champion in the longest final ever played at the tournament.

Despite being outplayed by the 37-year-old Swiss for large parts of the knife-edge encounter, the world number one triumphed 7-6 (7/5), 1-6, 7-6 (7/4), 4-6, 13-12 (7/3).

At 4 hours and 57 minutes, it was the longest Wimbledon final ever played and settled by a final set tiebreak for the first time.

Djokovic is the first man in 71 years to win the title from match points down. He is now level with Bjorn Borg as a five-time Wimbledon winner.

"I think that if this is not the most exciting final then definitely it's in the top two or three of my career against one of the greatest players of all time, Roger, who I respect," said Djokovic.

"Unfortunately in this type of match someone has to lose. It is quite unreal to be two match points down to come back and strange to play a tie-break at 12-12."

Djokovic is just four Grand Slam titles shy of the all-time record held by Federer who is more than five years older. It was incredibly tough on Federer, chasing a ninth Wimbledon crown, who didn't face a break point until the eighth game of the fourth set.

Djokovic's win meant that the 'Big Three' of men's tennis -- himself, Federer and Rafael Nadal -- have won the last 11 Slams.

He has now won nine of his last 11 clashes against Federer and three of their four Wimbledon meetings.

With William and Catherine, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge looking on from the Royal Box, Federer carved out the only break point of the opening set.

But Djokovic saved it and with serve dominating, the set was decided by the tiebreak.

The top seed was 3-1 up, then Federer inched to 5-3 before Djokovic swept the next four points.

At 58 minutes, it was two minutes longer than the women's final on Saturday. Djokovic, however, then went completely off the boil, losing his footing as he was broken in the first game of the second set.

Federer broke twice again and after just 25 more minutes the final was all-square with Djokovic managing just two winners in the set.

Federer was comfortably on top in the third set, flashing winners from all parts of the court but was unable to convert a set point in the 10th game.

Djokovic then carved out his first break points of the match in the eighth game.

The first was saved after a breathtaking 35-shot rally before the Serb finally broke for the first time.

It was too little, too late, however, as Federer deservedly levelled the final. Into a tense finale, Federer saved three break points in the fourth game but a drilled, backhand passing shot gave Djokovic the break in the sixth game for a 4-2 lead.

The world number one couldn't back it up and Federer had Centre Court on their feet when he restored parity in the next game. Despite twice being just two points from defeat, Federer broke for 8-7 but was unable to serve out for the match.

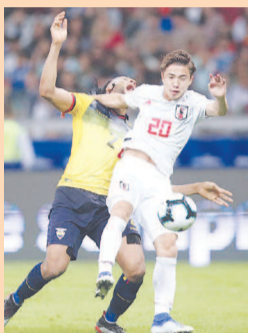
Barcelona Agree Deal To Sign Japan's Abe

BARCELONA (Reuters) - Barcelona have agreed a deal to sign emerging Japanese talent Hiroki Abe from Kashima Antlers, the J-League club said.

The 20-year-old attacker, named the league's best young player of 2018, was set to undergo a medical with the Spanish side and would join up with their 'B' side.

Financial details were not released but earlier reports said Barca would pay around 2 million euros (£1.8 million) for Abe, who made his senior international debut at the Copa America and appeared in all three of their matches.

"It was a difficult decision to leave (Kashima) mid-season, but I chose to make the move because I absolutely want to take on this new challenge at Barcelona," Kyodo news agency quoted Abe as saying in a statement.



Mochizuki Makes Grand Slam History

LONDON (AFP) - Shintaro Mochizuki made history on Sunday becoming the first Japanese player to win a boy's Grand Slam title, beating Carlos Gimeno Valero of Spain 6-3, 6-2 in the Wimbledon final.

The 16-year-old, who was playing just his third grass court tournament, follows 1969 girls singles title winner Kazuko Sawamatsu in triumphing at the grass court Grand Slam.

Mochizuki said he had learned a lot from his compatriot, 2014 US Open finalist Kei Nishikori.

"He's really nice," said Mochizuki. "He gives me a lot of advice."

"Like sometimes I practice with him. I learn from him a lot. Yeah, he's smart." Nishikori, nine times a Grand Slam quarter-finalist, took to Twitter almost immediately to fete his compatriot. "Huge congrats to @ShintaroMOCHIZU! Such an amazing tournament," tweeted the Japanese star, adding a thumbs up icon, a flexed bicep icon and several Japanese flags.

However, it is not 29-year-old Nishikori who is his idol.



England Win Cricket World Cup

LONDON (Dispatches) - England won the World Cup for the first time as they beat New Zealand in a dramatic Super Over after a nerve-shredding final ended in a tie at Lord's on Sunday.

After Eoin Morgan's side finished on 241 all out in pursuit of New Zealand's 241-8, the final came down to a six-ball shootout for each team. England's Ben Stokes and Jos Buttler took 15 off Trent Boult's over. Jofra Archer bowled England's over against Martin Guptill and Jimmy Neesham, who smashed a six off the second ball.

With two runs required off the final ball, wicketkeeper Jos Buttler and Jason Roy combined to run out Guptill as he came back for the second. Both sides finished on 15 so England won due to a tie-break rule because they hit more boundaries.

After defeats in previous finals against Pakistan in 1992, Australia in 1987 and the West Indies in 1979, it was a cathartic moment for English cricket.

"My heart is still racing. It's the biggest thing I've ever won, a great bunch of fellas, a really good family to me," Archer said. Stokes was in tears as England's players danced joyously around the pitch.

"I'm pretty lost for words. All the hard work over four years, to get here and be champions of the world. It's an amazing feeling. I'm pretty done," Stokes said with an expression that mixed elation with bewilderment.

"Playing against New Zealand is always a great event. They are a seriously good team and really good lads. I said to Kane Williamson I'll be apologising for that for the rest of my life."



Russia Power Past USA to Win Second VNL Title

CHICAGO (Dispatches) - Russia defeated hosts the United States 3-1 (25-23, 20-25, 25-21, 25-20) to claim a historic second FIVB Volleyball Nations League title on Sunday in the 2019 VNL Finals at the Credit Union 1 Arena in Chicago. Russia also claimed Volleyball Nations League gold in 2018 when they defeated France in the final of the inaugural edition of the competition.

Four Russia players scored in double digits during the final, including Dmitry Volkov (17), Egor Kliuka (14), Ivan Iakovlev (12) and Victor Poletaev (11). Taylor Sander scored 20 for USA and Matt Anderson 19.

The two teams met in the pool stage of the Finals on Friday when coach John Speraw's USA players prevailed in three sets. But with the trophy at stake, the North Americans were unable to restrain a Russia team which also defeated reigning back-to-back world champions and 2019 VNL bronze medallists Poland en route to the final in yesterday's semifinals. Highlighting outstanding performances during the Men's Finals in Chicago, an MVP/Best Opposite award was received by the USA's Matt Anderson. Other players receiving awards in the Best Outside Hitter category included Russians Egor Kliuka and Dmitry Volkov and Poland's Bartosz Bednorz, who led his team to the bronze medals. Ivan Iakovlev of Russia and Max Holt of USA received the Best Middle Blocker honours.

Hawaiian Micah Christenson was rewarded for his performance at the setting role, and his ability to distribute the ball with pinpoint precision. His teammate, 29-year-old Erik Shoji received the prize for best libero, after again demonstrating his ability to keep the ball alive in even the most difficult situations.

