

Iran's Deputy Interior Minister  
Announced That the Second Round  
Of Parliamentary Elections Will Be  
Held in September, Adding That the  
11<sup>th</sup> Majlis to Be Formed Next Month

# IRAN NEWS

Iran's Foreign Ministry Announced  
That a Chinese Company Has  
Donated Three Gates for the  
Sanitary Scanner for Scanning of  
Pilgrims of the Holy Shrine of  
Imam Reza (AS) in Mashhad

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## Over 85,000 Iranians Recover From COVID-19

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Health Ministry says 85,064 patients have so far recovered from the COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel Coronavirus.

The Ministry's spokesman, Kianoush Jahanpour, on Saturday confirmed 1,529 new cases of Coronavirus infection, increasing the total number of cases to 106,220.

He said 48 people have also died of the disease in the past 24 hours, raising the death toll to 6,589.

According to the spokesman, 2,696 patients are in severe conditions of the disease.

So far, he added, 573,220 COVID-19 tests have been taken across the country.

Meanwhile yesterday Deputy Health Minister Iraj Harirchi said Iran's healthcare system has acted perfectly to keep the death toll and hospitalizing level low.

In response to question about the latest situation in Khuzestan province j Harirchi, deputy head of Health Minister in a live video presser on Saturday 9 May, said that Khuzestan situation on COVID-19 epidemic is worrying and agonizing and the infection is rocketing there.

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## Swiss Humanitarian Channel Yet to Process A Single Deal for Iran

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - A new report published in the American media shows a Swiss trade channel much publicized by Washington as a secure way of delivering humanitarian assistance to Iran at a time of sanctions has failed to process any single deal on Iranian medicine imports.

The Daily Beast reported that Iranians have got almost nothing from the Swiss Humanitarian Trade Agreement (SHTA) since it was launched in January with the support and consent of the US.

The channel was meant to find a way around the US sanctions to use Iranian funds deposited abroad to buy food and medicine for the country via the Swiss bank BCP.

However, companies seeking to participate in the scheme have found it very difficult to comply with the criteria set by the U.S. government to avoid violating the general rules governing the sanctions, said the report.

Fabian Maienfisch, a spokesman for Switzerland's State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), which oversees the channel, admitted in comments made to the Daily Beast that the initiative had effectively failed to meet its objectives.

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## U.N Urged to Safeguard Its Reputation Over U.S. Violation of JCPOA



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Foreign Minister Mohammad-Javad Zarif has written a letter to United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to elaborate on the U.S. violations of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and the UN Security Council Resolution 2231, demanding the international body to safeguard its reputation.

Zarif discussed issues like the U.S. withdrawal from the deal and restoration of sanctions on Iran and intended to draw the attention of the UNSC to the U.S. repeated and overt violation of Article 25 of the UN Charter, which has endangered the credibility and integrity of the United Nations and threatens the international peace and security.

Zarif wrote to Guterres that the U.S. withdrew from the JCPOA on May 8, 2018, and restored all the sanctions that had been removed by the deal, which was a basic violation of the JCPOA, which is an overt violation of the UNSC Resolution 2231. Withdrawing from the deal and restoring the sanctions make the US accountable before the UN charted and international human rights.

The U.S. violated UNSC Resolution 2231 that was confirmed with consensus on January 20, 2015. The UN should at once do its duty and make the US accountable for blatant violation of the UN Charter and international law, which will tarnish the UN's credibility.

It is crystal clear to everyone that the U.S. illegal actions openly ignore the international law and the UN Charter and weaken the principle of the peaceful resolution of disagreements, endangers multilateralism and its institutions, signifies a return to the failed time of unilateralism, and also encourages illegal actions, which all show an open threat to international peace and security.

Zarif also said that Resolution 2231 stresses that "the JCPOA is conducive to promoting and facilitating the development of normal economic and trade contacts and cooperation with Iran", and "calls upon all members-states, regional organizations, and international organizations to take such actions as may be appropriate to support the implementation of the JCPOA, including by taking actions commensurate with the implementation plan set out in the JCPOA and this resolution and by refraining from actions that undermine implementation of commitments under the JCPOA".

He wrote not only has the US not acted according to its JCPOA commitments, but it has also kept impeding the measures taken by other members of the deal.

Zarif wrote since President Donald Trump has taken office, the US has taken up unilateral actions and 129 sanctions against Iran to deal an irreparable blow to Iran's economy and its trade exchanges with other countries. Such negative actions have had a direct impact on the Iranian private sector and have cut the income of ordinary people of Iran and weakened the private sector for production and entrepreneurship. The economic conditions are worse than how it was before the JCPOA.

"The complete list of the sanctions is enclosed to further clarify the issue," Zarif wrote in his letter.

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## India Sugar Exports Boosted by Strong Demand From Iran

MUMBAI (Dispatches) - Sugar exports from India have gained momentum due to strong demand from Indonesia and Iran as the rupee slid to a record low, increasing exporters' margins from overseas sales, five industry officials told Reuters.

Higher exports from India, the world's biggest producer of sugar, could put pressure on global prices and limit shipments from rivals such as Brazil and Thailand.

"In the last few days, Iran and Indonesia were buying for May and June shipments," Rahil Shaikh, managing director of trading company MEIR Commodities India, told Reuters.

Indian sugar mills have already dispatched 3.7 million tons out of around 4.1 million tons of contracts signed for exports in the 2019/20 marketing year ending on Sept. 30, Shaikh and two other dealers with global trading companies, said.

Traders have shipped 719,922 tons to Iran so far in the season, while Indonesia bought a record 324,112 tons, according to data released by All India Sugar Trade Association (AISTA) on Thursday.

Indonesia has increased imports of Indian sugar after New Delhi boosted purchases of Indonesian palm oil amid a spat with rival supplier Malaysia, dealers said.

Indonesia and Malaysia account for 85% of the world's palm oil output while India is the biggest buyer of the edible oil. India effectively halted imports of refined palm oil from Malaysia in early January which sources have said was in retaliation for Malaysia's criticisms over a citizenship law.

Large scale Indian exports to Indonesia were made possible after Jakarta changed purity regulations for sugar imports, said Shaikh.

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## U.S. Breach of UN Resolution 2231 Mockery of Int'l Law

TEHRAN (IFP) - Iran's ambassador to the United Nations says the United States' violation of UN Security Council Resolution 2231 makes a mockery of international regulations.

Majid Takht Ravanchi also fulminated against Washington for threatening other countries. "One of the living examples of systematic mockery of international law is the U.S. breach of UNSC Resolution 2231 and its blatant threats against other countries to make them violate the resolution or face punitive measures," said the top diplomat at a virtual and unofficial meeting of the UN Security Council held Friday, marking the 75th anniversary of the of World War II.

He also stressed the need to reinforce multilateralism.

"Multilateralism has faced numerous challenges, and the strengthening of the rule of law, international cooperation and interaction are the requisite for those challenges to be removed," he said.

The top diplomat said lessons should be learned from the bitter experience of World War II.

He also said the UN was established to serve as a center to coordinate actions by countries in order to solve global problems.

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## Any U.S. Effort to Exploit UNSC Resolution 2231 "Futile"

BEIJING (Dispatches) - Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations called Iran's nuclear deal 2015 a multilateral agreement, saying any effort to exploit the Security Council Resolution 2231 would go nowhere.

"Iran's nuclear deal 2015 has been approved by the UN Security Council as a multilateral agreement and is still legally binding and effective," the mission said on its Twitter page on Friday.

Ambassador Zhang Jun, Permanent Representative of China to the UN added: "It is the responsibility of all parties to the agreement, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), must act by its provisions as well as Resolution 2231. Efforts to exploit the resolution will not work."

"We support the United Nations in taking more decisive action in the face of the problems of the most vulnerable countries," he went on to say, pointing to the global Coronavirus Pandemic.

"COVID-19 is a common enemy of all, and to fight it, we must stand with the United Nations and the World Health Organization, prioritize people, respect science, and protect life and health," he said.

## U.S. Sets Up New Military Base in Syria's Oil-Rich Dayr al-Zawr

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) - The United States has reportedly established a new military base in Syria's oil-rich eastern province of Dayr al-Zawr after bringing in reinforcements to the war-torn Arab country.

The so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) quoted reliable sources as saying on Friday that the new U.S. base is located in Day al-Zawr's al-Jazrat area.

The U.S.-based monitoring group reported that more than 300 trucks, carrying ammunition, weapons, military and logistical supplies, had entered Syria over the past few days and that most of those trucks headed to al-Jazrat.

It further said the U.S. forces are expanding their base in the al-Omar oil field in the eastern countryside of Dayr Al -Zawr.

Recently, it added, American soldiers and other U.S.-led coalition troops had arrived at the base.

Washington runs several military bases in Syria, mainly in northern and eastern regions where the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) are operating.

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# Zarif, Borrell Discuss Regional, Int'l Developments

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and European Union foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell in a phone conversation late on Friday shared views on the latest regional and international developments.

According to Foreign Ministry's Information Dissemination Department, they also discussed JCPOA and fighting coronavirus in the world.

## Iranians More Creative Under U.S. Inhuman Sanctions

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

**TEHRAN - In a note on the occasion of U.S. withdrawal from JCPOA, Iranian Government Spokesman Ali Rabiei announced that US sanctions have made the Iranian nation more creative and the nation will eventually defeat the American embargoes.**

"May 8 marks the day President Trump pulled out from the JCPOA, which was an illegal international move, seeking a separation between Iranian establishment and nation," he wrote.

"Sanctions are kind of indirect murder, which increases the risks of common people's lives," Rabiei underlined.

He noted that under the sanctions, Iran needs dynamic diplomacy to foil the accusations made by the U.S. against Iran on the way to negatively influence world public opinion against the Islamic Republic.

"Two years after the imposition of unprecedented sanctions on Iran, the Iranian government and people have gone through a difficult period."

"The Iranian society has become increasingly resilient and creative, and the



government has worked hard to maintain Iran's independence in the eyes of the international community," he wrote, "Iran's government could convert U.S.' face in the world from a rightful state to an irrational government that rules the world only relying on its political and economic power."

He added that even under the sanction and coronavirus pandemic, Iran has been successful to preserve its economy resilient and managed to export some anti-coronavirus products to various world countries.

Rabiei underscored that Iran's fate will not be similar to those countries which are also under the US sanctions and the Iranian nation will eventually make sanctions kneel down.

## President Urges Producing Coronavirus Test Kits Fit for Exports

TEHRAN (IRNA)- President Hassan Rouhani hailed successful achievements in meeting the needs for countering coronavirus and called for development of coronavirus detection kits both to meet domestic needs and export to applicant countries.

After listening to a report on the country's situation on fighting coronavirus, way of screening and implementation of health protocols by Minister of Health, Treatment and Medical Education Saeed Namaki late on Friday, he appreciated medical personnel for their efforts in containing the disease, saying that all relevant institutes are duty-bound for cooperation with Health Ministry in executing health guidelines so that all businesses will resume operation.

The chief executive also stressed the need for effective information dissemination and public awareness, urging continued implementation of all health protocols until complete break of the chain of coronavirus spread.

Rouhani also called on health minister to review necessary issues and present in next Sunday session of National Coronavirus Taskforce to make necessary decisions in this respect.

## Iran Sent 40,000 Test Kits to Several Countries

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The Iranian foreign minister has stressed the importance of international cooperation on the response to the coronavirus pandemic, thanking Indian Parsis for sending aid to Iran, and saying that Tehran has sent 40,000 COVID-19 test kits to several countries.

"The Parsis of India—Zoroastrians whose ancestors long ago emigrated to India—have remained ever faithful in their love for Iran. Grateful for their Covid-19 package for Iranians," Mohammad Javad Zarif said in a tweet on Friday.

Up to 69,000 Parsis, who are Zoroastrians of Iranian origin, currently live in India.

Zarif also said that 40,000 "advanced Iran-made test kits" have been exported to Germany, Turkey and other countries.

"[We are] in this together," he added.

The Parsis of India—Zoroastrians whose ancestors long ago emigrated to India—have remained ever faithful in their love for Iran. Grateful for their #Covid19 package for Iranians.

The export of Iranian diagnosis kits comes after Tehran announced last week that it had permitted the export of test kits after a reported surge in their production.

## Tehran, Zagreb Seek Expansion of Bilateral Cultural Cooperation

TEHRAN (IP) - Iran's ambassador in Zagreb met and held talks with Grand Mufti and President of the Meshihat of Islamic Community in Croatia Aziz Hasanovic on Friday to expand bilateral cultural cooperation.

Iran's ambassador to Croatia Parviz Esmaeili praised Grand Mufti's management in preserving Croat Muslims' health and observing health protocols amid the Coronavirus outbreak.

"Making optimal use of virtual space for promoting spiritual activities and cultural communication is a valuable experience for the religious undertaking," Esmaeili said during the meeting.

Meanwhile, Grand Mufti Aziz Hasanovic appreciated close ties between Iran's Embassy in Croatia and Meshihat of Islamic Community and pointed to the extensive arrangements for saving Muslims' health in the country against the Coronavirus.

"Only three of Croat Muslims have been infected with the COVID-19 and one has died of the virus," he noted.

The Grand Mufti of Croatia stressed that if the situation normalizes, holding of the International Holy Qur'an Competition in Zagreb will be on the agenda of Meshihat of Islamic Community.

## Iran Handicrafts Exports Reach \$427m in 11 Months

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iran's exports of handicrafts in the 11 months of the past fiscal year to February 19 amounted to \$427 million, said the deputy cultural heritage, handicraft and tourism minister.

Pouya Mahmoudian added that of the total amount, some \$237 million accounted for official exports, and the remaining \$190 million belong to the suitcase trade.

According to the available data, the figure shows a 13.3% and 8% growth in terms of value and volume, respectively, compared with the corresponding period of the year before.

Noting that the country had set a \$440-million goal for last fiscal's handicrafts exports, the official said, the 11-month figure indicates a 97% realization of the plan.

Iran's handicrafts exports reached \$289 million in the fiscal (2018-2019), suggesting a mild growth of 3% year on year.

Traditional ceramics, pottery vessels, handwoven cloths as well as personal ornaments with precious and semi-precious gemstones were the main products exported last year.

Iraq, Afghanistan, Germany, the U.S., the UK, were the top five export destinations of Iran during the said period.

## Independent States Urged to Compel Trump to Abide by Int'l Laws

ISLAMABAD (IRNA) - Consul General of Iran in Pakistan's Karachi says that the independent countries of the world should take it upon themselves as a duty to compel Donald Trump to abide by international laws and commitments.

Ahmad Mohammadi wrote in his article on Saturday that the exit from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) by the U.S. is now into its second year.

"The JCPOA is an international agreement which was the result of Iran's years of several talks with the P5+1 countries," he said.

Mohammadi added it is considered as one of the most unparalleled diplomatic measures which came as a welcome development for the experts and the world public opinion for resolution of the lingering issue of Iran's nuclear program and showed that logical-talks bring logical results.

"The UN General Assembly welcomed the agreement and its Security Council abrogated its sanctioning resolutions against Iran, besides removing Iran's nuclear issue from chapter 7 of the UN charter," noted the diplomat.

Mohammadi said it was for the first time in the world that the issue of a country was removed without resorting to using power and war measures and only through negotiations and consent.

"Unfortunately, before long, the US administration unilaterally exited from this international agreement. This exit was actually a plan that Donald Trump had in his head since the start of his presidential election campaign, he noted.

He said on May 8, 2018, the Trump administration, on baseless pretexts, exited officially from the JCPOA and announced the reimposition of the unilateral and illegal sanctions against the proud nation of Iran.

"These sanctions are into their second year and are continuing even when Iran is badly hit by the coronavirus pandemic, hindering Iran's war against this deadly virus and endangering the lives of people as well as those of medics and paramedics," said the envoy.

He said the exit from the JCPOA is not the sole example of Trump's backing out from international agreements.

## Iran Extradites 16 Indonesian, Chinese Inmates

TEHRAN (IFP) - Fifteen Indonesian nationals and a Chinese imprisoned in Iran on charge of smuggling fuel have been extradited to their respective countries.

Deputy Chief of Iran's Judiciary for Human Rights and International Affairs said 15 Indonesian inmates and a Chinese prisoner have been handed over to representatives of the embassies of Indonesia and China in Iran's southern province of Hormozgan and have been extradited to their respective countries after legal procedures.

Mahmoud Abbasi, who also chairs the Judiciary's Committee on Extradition of Convicts, said the extradition process has been carried out under the auspices of the Judiciary, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Iranian Prosecutor General's Office.

The Indonesian and Chinese citizens have been imprisoned in Iran on charge of smuggling fuel.

"With such humanitarian and philanthropic measure from the Islamic Republic of Iran, we are negotiating to extradite our inmates from Indonesia and China to the country's (Iran's) prisons," Abbasi noted.

## 2nd Phase of Screening for Coronavirus Kicks Off in Tehran

TEHRAN (IFP) - Iran's deputy health minister says the second phase of the screening plan for coronavirus is underway in Tehran province.

Alireza Raisi said the first phase of the plan has come to an end. "One important and major thing which is being done in Tehran province with a vengeance is the screening plan," said the top official Saturday.

"It is the second phase which is being done. As you know, the first phase has come to an end," he added.

He said individuals are being tested for COVID-19 at select laboratories to detect coronavirus-positive people.

"One of the concerns in Tehran is that the city, some shopping malls, businesses and workshops and other places are crowded, and we ask dear citizens in Tehran to observe health tips, so that we'll get through this stage as well," he said.

He said the trend of tackling the disease is a good one, urging people to stick to stay-at-home orders as well as health protocols.



**IRANIAN OFFSHORE OLI COMPANY (P.J.S)**  
INTERNATION TO PUBLIC TENDER (PRE- QUALIFICATION)

**TENDER NO : 007/99/OF**

Engineering , Designing , Supply of tri-cone drilling bits and running services in operating field of IOOC

**Iranian offshore oil company (IOOC) intends to open pre-Qualification for above tender with the following conditions:**

**Scope of work:** Engineering , Designing , Supply of tri-cone drilling bits and running services in operating field of IOOC

**Location:** IOOC Oli Fields in Persian Gulf

**performance period:** 2 Years

**Other Item Shall be Considered:**

**1:** Ability of submission Bid Bond as in the amount of Iranian **Rial 3,744,612,000** for Iranian Bidders of **Euro 25,293,00** for foreign Bidders.

**2:** Ability of submission 10% of total contract price value as performance guarantee in case of winning according to company's procedure.

**3:** proposals should be submitted with no condition, incomplete, ambiguous or adverse of package specification in deadline.

**4:** Company shall reserve the right to accept or reject any or all of proposals or parts(s) there of according to tender law.

**5:** The validity of the submitted financial proposals shall be 3 months from the opening of financial envelopes Date and extendable for one further period.

**6:** for invitation to above tenders. it is necessary to achieve the determinate minimum score in the pre-qualification.

Bidders who have ability and are willing to participate in the pre-qualification are requested to submit a written request to contract Department, within one Week from second Announcement by representative and collect the pre-qualification forms.

Closing Date for submission of the pre-qualification documents shall be up to 14 days after the deadline of collecting pre-qualification documents. Place and time of submission and opening of proposals will be stated in Tender Documents.

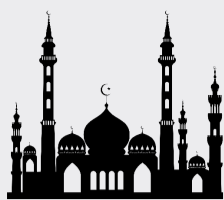
**Address for willing to participate and submission pre-qualification Documents:**

5<sup>th</sup> Floor, #12, Touraj St, Khakzad st, Vali-e-Asr Ave., after Balal Mosque, before Modarres Crossroad, Tehran, Iran. **Tel: +9821-23942510**

**Note:** Additional information is available at IOOC website address: [www.iooc.co.ir](http://www.iooc.co.ir) on the day of second Announcement.

**IRANIAN OFFSHORE OLI COMPANY PUBLIC RELATIONS**

PERMIT NO : 1399.672



## PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	13:00
■ Evening (Maghreb)	20:18
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:25
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:02

19. ((Allah) will say): "Now have they proved you liars in what ye say: so ye cannot avert (your penalty) nor (get) help." And whoever among you does wrong, him shall We cause to taste of a grievous Penalty.

Surah 25. The Criterion, The Standard ( 19 )

## No Surge in Production Possible Without Facilitating Exports

**IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK**

**TEHRAN – Chairman of Iran Steel Producers Association criticized recent decision of the government for limiting the amount of steel exports and called it a serious hurdle in way of the slogan of surge in production.**

Dr. Bahram Sobhani said that instead of encouraging the exports, the government restricts exports, adding that with the current restrictions, the surge in production in steel industry will be in danger.

He criticized recent decision of the government to limit exports of steel to only 25 percent of the production, and called it a hurdle in way of surge in production.

He noted that all decisions which are made are against the needs of national steel industry and the government creates hurdle in way of steel exporters instead of encouraging them. Sobhani reiterated that surge in production will be impossible without facilitating the export process.

On the current programs of steel production in the country and the amount of production surplus in the country, he said it is expected the raw steel production to hit 30m tons this year. He added that some 10 million tons of raw steel will be produced in Mobarakeh Steel Group, Hormuzgan Steel Company and Saba Steel Company.

Sobhani noted that if production of 1.5m tons of Khouzesan Steel Company's slab steel production is reduced from 30m tons target, some 28.5m tons of steel will be produced in the country and some 7m tons is needed by the domestic production in



the rolling units. He added that the country's steel production is more than what the domestic market needs and some 10 to 11m tons of produced steel ingots are surplus in the country and should be exported.

He also criticized restrictions on steel exports, adding that he does not know why there is concern regarding steel exports. He further said while two-thirds of steel ingot production is over than domestic market needs and it should be exported, there is no reason to have concerns about the amount of steel exports.

Sobhani reiterated that exports of 10 to 11m tons of steel in the sanctions era is not an easy job and the government in this condition should facilitate the exports rather than creating hurdle.

He recommended while the country is in dire need of non-oil exports forex, it is necessary the exports to be facilitated.

He warned if the country wants to materialize the surge in production, it should think of solving the current cumbersome regulations, reiterated that with current regulations, last year's record of 27m tons of production will not touch 30m tons this year, and to this end, all should be mobilized to ease exports.

## IME Posts Weekly Trade of 523,000 Tons of Commodities

**IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK**

TEHRAN - Approximately, 523,000 MT of commodities worth over \$619m were traded last week on the Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME).

According International Affairs and PR of Iran Mercantile Exchange, on the domestic and export metal and mineral trading floor of IME, 199,186 MT of various products worth close to \$324m were traded last week.

On this trading floor, 147,888 MT of steel, 3,790 MT of copper, 7,340 MT of aluminum, 40,000 MT of zinc, 150 MT of molybdenum concentrates, 18 MT of precious metal concentrates as well as 20 kg of gold bullion were traded by customers.

The report declares that on domestic and export oil and petrochemical trading floors of IME, 323,453 MT of different commodities with the total value of \$302m were traded.

On this trading floor, 43,633 MT of bitumen, 102,000 MT of VB feed stock, 77,414 MT of polymer products, 26,500 MT of lube cut oil, 32,919 MT of chemical products, 980 MT of insulation, 3,208 MT of base oil as well as 36,800 MT of sulfur were traded.



## Tehran Stock Exchange Index Passes 1m Points



TEHRAN (IFP) - The Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE) index has surpassed 1 million points for the first time in history.

The overall index increased by more than 26,000 points as trading opened on Saturday, May 9, 2020, to reach 1,004,474 points.

The benchmark Tehran Stock Exchange index has been growing in recent weeks.

According to experts, the main reason for the unprecedented increase in the stock market index and its record-breaking is the flow of stray cash into the stock market and the pressure to buy stocks of limited companies on the stock exchange and over-the-counter.

Tehran Stock Exchange Index Passes 1mn Points 2Also trading permission granted for "Justice Shares" held by low-income Iranian families and the initial offering of major state-owned companies as well as the four-time return of the stock market index over the past year have led people to invest in this market.

Some economists warn that people should avoid emotional behavior in the stock market and be careful, as risk is a natural part of the stock market.

On the other hand, the recession in parallel markets such as real estate, gold, foreign currency and cars has prompted people to invest in the stock market. Therefore, the managers of listed and over-the-counter companies should seize the opportunity to issue securities to implement development projects and new investment projects.

## Iran Purchases Iraqi Goods in Exchange for Exporting Electricity

TEHRAN (ILNA) - The spokesman of the Petroleum Products Exporters Union, Seyed Hamid Hosseini announced that Iran purchases Iraqi goods in exchange for exporting electricity to Iraq.

The member of the Chamber of Commerce said Iran will not be able to withdraw the money but will be able to use it to purchase goods from Iraq.

He further explained "Iraq imports around 1,500 MW of electricity and 30 million cubic meters of gas for power stations from Iran," adding that Iraqis do not pay us any money for the gas they import and all the money is now in the account of the Tejarat Bank of Iraq.

The spokesman of the Union for Exporting Oil Products said "Following the U.S. sanctions, some arrangements have been taken to use the blocked money in the central bank's account in another way."

"The central bank has announced its readiness to allocate the money to buy goods from Iraq," Hamid Hosseini added.

Iraq has always been a customer of more than eighty percent of Iran's electricity exports.

On May 7, shortly after new Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi received confirmation from parliament, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called the new premier and told him that Washington will move forward with a 120-day waiver to allow Iraq to import electricity from Iran.

Iraq is still Iran's most loyal business partner despite hurdles imposed by sanctions, protests, the coronavirus crisis, and — most importantly of all — the United States' continuous pressure on Baghdad to try to get it to drop out of the deals to buy Iranian electricity and gas.

## Iranian Commercial Vessels Not to Enter UAE Ports

**IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK**

TEHRAN - Chairman of the Board of Bushehr Province Dhow Owners Seyed Ali Mousavi Gomarani said that the owners of commercial vessels should not rely on the rumors about resumption of transportation with the United Arab Emirates until further notice.

"Until now, no consultations have been held between the officials of Iran and the UAE regarding the normalization of the trade, which has been stopped due to COVID-19 outbreak," Gomarani said.

"Efforts are being made to obtain the necessary permits for commercial vessels to be allowed entering the ports of the United Arab Emirates," he said adding that the result will be announced through official news agencies.

"Following the outbreak of the coronavirus in Iran and all over the world, no Iranian shipment has been allowed to enter the ports of the UAE

since March," Gomarani said

He added that so far, no confidential and official letters have been exchanged between the officials of Iran and the United Arab Emirates regarding the specific time for resuming transportation.

## A Glance at Major Activities of EORC in 1398

**IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK**

TEHRAN – Esfahan Oil Refining Company (EORC) as the provider of 20 percent of oil products in the country plays a decisive role in securing energy supply in the oil sector.

EORC in line with its objectives have carried out several projects by observing all environmental principles for years. The projects have not only reduced the company's needs to crude oil as the raw material but also have increased production and quality of oil products in accordance with all up-to-date standards in the world. The company is to turn into the leading company in producing oil products in the country by 2022 through implementing several defined projects.

The CEO of the Company Mr. Morteza Ebrahimi pointed to some implemented projects of the company, carried out in 1398 (last Iranian calendar year) like exploiting the distillation and liquefied gas unit No.3, and some important environmental projects. He further said the total production capacity of Esfahan Refinery is on average 375,000 barrels per day and by operation of distillation and liquefied gas unit No.3, the production



capacity is distributed in three divisions of the unit and it will reduce traffic for feeding and their better separations.

He added that by this measure, the life span of equipment will increase and the operation and repair costs will reduce.

Ebrahimi noted that by operation of this unit, the total production capacity of the refinery has reduced from 375,000 barrels per day to 360,000 barrels.

He added that by launching the distillation unit, the existing viscosity reduction units have been pulled out of crude oil circle and have been placed in the main operation circle.

He stated these developments have reduced the amount of mazut oil production and instead they have increased valuable products like gasoline, kerosene, jet fuel and gas oil.

Ebrahimi reiterated that in case the country needs increase in gasoline production, the company can increase its daily gasoline production by 70,000 barrels per day by using two of its peripheral units.

He then pointed to some projects of the company which are underway like construction of gas oil refining, construction of utility and off-site project of gas oil refining and new boilers and water unit (DM).

## 17% Increase in Gold Ingot Production Envisaged in Iran

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization's (IMIDRO) manager announced a 17% rise in gold production in Mouth Gold Mine (Isfahan) and Zarshouran Gold Mine (West Azarbaijan) in the current Iranian year compared to the figure for the previous year.

Omid Emami added that last year, gold bullion production in these units stood at 1,139 kilograms while 1,333 kilograms have been targeted for 2020.

This year, designated as the Year of Surge in Production', all sectors are expected to experience growth and iron ore is projected to see a 19% increase this year compared to the figure for last year, he said. According to Emami, production of iron ore at IMIDRO's mines will reach 75 million tons, up from 62.5 million ton last year.

There are 10,404 licensed mines across the country, of which 5,600 are active.

Mouth Gold Mine, located in Isfahan Province, is owned by Iran Minerals Production and Supply Company.

Zarshouran Gold Mine is located 35 kilometers from Takab in the northwestern province of West Azarbaijan is Iran and Middle East's richest gold deposit.

## U.S. Approves Helicopters to Egypt

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States has approved a \$2.3 billion deal on attack helicopters for Egypt, but an official insisted Friday that Washington was still pressing on human rights concerns.

President Donald Trump's administration informed Congress on Thursday that it has given the green light to the package to refurbish 43 Apache helicopters.

R. Clarke Cooper, the State Department official in charge of military sales, said the deal was intended to support Egypt's campaign against Islamist militants in the Sinai peninsula and to ensure its interoperability with Israel's military.



## Trump, Saudi King Reaffirm Defense Ties Amid Tensions

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. President Donald Trump and Saudi Arabia's King Salman spoke by phone on Friday and "reaffirmed the strong United States-Saudi defense partnership," the White House said, amid tensions over Saudi's oil output.

The conversation came a day after a variety of reports said the United States plans to withdraw two Patriot anti-missile batteries from Saudi Arabia that have been a defense against Iran.

Trump had worked last month to persuade Saudi Arabia to cut its oil output after an increase in production during the early stages of the coronavirus pandemic put heavy pressure on U.S. oil producers.



## U.S. Reversal Prevents UN Vote on Pandemic Truce



NEW YORK (Dispatches) - The United States on Friday stunned other members of the UN Security Council by preventing a vote on a resolution for a ceasefire in various conflicts around the world to help troubled nations better fight the coronavirus pandemic, diplomats said.

Washington's reversal came a day after it agreed to the text, negotiators said under cover of anonymity.

"The United States cannot support the current draft," the country's delegation declared, without further detail, to the 14 other Security Council members, after nearly two months of difficult negotiation over the text.

The latest stalemate continues to leave the global peace and security body largely mute in the face of a once-in-a-century pandemic that has killed more than 270,000 people and raised further fears for the world's most vulnerable.

When asked for an explanation of the US move, a State Department official told AFP that China had "repeatedly blocked compromises that would have allowed the Council to move forward." Diplomats told AFP that the language used in the draft to describe the World Health Organization was behind the U.S. move to prevent the vote.

But other sources said Washington wanted the Council to return to an initial draft of the resolution which highlighted the need for "transparency" in global cooperation in tackling the pandemic.

"In our view, the Council should either proceed with a resolution limited to support for a ceasefire, or a broadened resolution that fully addresses the need for renewed member state commitment to transparency and accountability in the context of COVID-19," the State Department official said.

U.S. President Donald Trump has accused the WHO of downplaying the seriousness of the outbreak in China.

The procedure blocked by the United States would have allowed the sponsors of the resolution, France and Tunisia, to put it to a vote. The latest version of the text -- obtained by AFP -- called for a cessation of hostilities in conflict zones and a 90-day "humanitarian pause" to allow governments to better address the pandemic among those most suffering.

It called on all nations to "enhance coordination" in the virus fight and highlighted the "urgent need to support all countries, as well as all relevant entities of the United Nations system, including specialized health agencies, and other relevant international, regional, and sub-regional organization." This wording, which implicitly refers to the WHO without explicitly mentioning it, was the compromise obtained from US and China on Thursday night, according to diplomats.

Washington had threatened to use its veto if there were any explicit reference to the WHO, while Beijing brandished its own veto if the global health body were not mentioned, before in the end accepting that it would not be.

Diplomats said the U.S. had let go more than a week ago of its demand for mention of transparency in the French-Tunisian text. The "ball was in the Chinese camp" now, one of them said previously.

The U.S. turnaround "is a very, very bad news for United Nations, the Security Council and multilateralism," said one ambassador from a Security Council member.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has been pushing for a cessation of hostilities around the world since March 23, urging all sides in conflict to lay down arms and allow war-torn nations to combat the coronavirus.

French Ambassador Nicolas de Riviere told AFP that he would like "of course to continue to try to reach an agreement, if there is room for that."

His Tunisian counterpart Kais Kabtani said discussions are continuing "to convince the Americans." He vowed that the procedure for going to a vote would be taken up again.

Ironically, the Security Council was also engaged Friday in a major videoconference organized by Estonia, which holds the body's rotating presidency this month, on the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II.

More than 50 ministers from around the world participated, most of them issuing a "plea for multilateralism."

## Venezuela Charges Americans With Terrorism, Conspiracy

CARACAS (AFP) - Venezuela has charged two former U.S. soldiers with terrorism and conspiracy for allegedly taking part in a failed bid to topple President Nicolas Maduro, the attorney general said on Friday.

Luke Alexander Denman, 34, and Airan Berry, 41, were among 17 people captured by the Venezuelan military, which said it had thwarted an attempted invasion by mercenaries in the early hours of Sunday.

Attorney General Tarek William Saab said they had been charged with "terrorism, conspiracy, illicit trafficking of weapons of war and (criminal) association," and could face 25-30 years in prison.

Eight attackers were reportedly killed in the incident.

Saab said Venezuela had requested an international arrest warrant for the capture of former US army medic Jordan Goudreau, who allegedly organized and trained the mercenary force.



## Germany Wants Europe to Be Less Dependent on Other Countries

BERLIN (Reuters) - The coronavirus pandemic has shown Europe is too reliant on other countries for some medical supplies, and European states should work together to further diversify international supply chains, German Economy Minister Peter Altmaier told Reuters.

"Germany, which will take over the rotating EU presidency from July on, feels a special responsibility in the coronavirus crisis to actively shape Europe in a spirit of solidarity," Altmaier said in remarks cleared for publication on Saturday.

Altmaier, a close ally of Chancellor Angela Merkel, said the single market remained the economic backbone of the European Union and the envy of many other countries, even more so in light of the coronavirus pandemic.

"The current crisis shows that we have to avoid one-sided dependency and diversify international supply chains to a greater extent," Altmaier said, adding that Europe had to become less dependent on non-European suppliers of medical precursors as well as medical protection gear such as masks.

"For this we need a European industrial strategy to strengthen the industrial base in Europe, combined with good framework conditions, especially for small and medium-sized companies," Altmaier told Reuters.

But the minister insisted that such a strategy had to be compatible with the rules of the World Trade Organization (WTO), adding: "The current crisis does not mean a farewell to globalization. On the contrary, it underlines the importance of clear international trade rules that everyone must abide by."

The German government is preparing a change to its foreign trade regulations that would require the government to be informed of purchases by countries outside the European Union of stakes in key healthcare companies.

Altmaier also said the EU should combine the task of supporting the economic recovery from the pandemic with the broader goal of reducing greenhouse gases to slow down global warming.

"After the crisis, Europe has to become a source of ideas for a socially just transformation, a climate-friendly economy and a successful shift towards renewable energies," he said. "Technologies that were already a thing of the past before the crisis will be even more so after the crisis," he added.

"We have to design the European Green Deal as a growth strategy for our economy so that innovations and new clean technologies can help us to find new export markets and secure jobs."

## Turkey, Italy Say Shells Hit Near Their Libyan Embassies

TUNIS (Reuters) - Shells landed near the Turkish and Italian embassies in central Tripoli late on Thursday, they said, in an apparent expansion of bombardment by eastern-based forces to a central district of the Libyan capital.

The eastern-based Libyan National Army (LNA) of Khalifa Haftar has been bombarding Tripoli for months as part of a year-long war to capture the city, causing four fifths of civilian deaths in the conflict this year, according to the United Nations.

At least 131 civilians were killed or injured in the fighting in the first quarter of 2020, the U.N. has said.

Turkish military support for the internationally recognised Government of National Accord (GNA) has helped its forces push the LNA back from several areas in recent weeks, threatening to end Haftar's campaign in western Libya.

The Turkish ambassador told Reuters in a message that a Grad missile had struck the High Court building next to the embassy and another landed by the Foreign Ministry. Italy's Foreign Ministry said on Twitter the area near around the Italian ambassador's residence was hit, causing at least two deaths. "Italy strongly condemns yet another attack by Haftar forces," it said.

Shells also landed around the city's port, where the

United Nations migration agency had to abort an operation to disembark migrants who had been rescued at sea.

The LNA's military spokesman had this week announced the start of a new air campaign, and said strikes had targeted an airbase at Misrata. Local authorities there said the loud blasts that occurred late on Wednesday were caused by a storage problem with old munitions.

Pro-GNA forces have been able to reverse some of the losses they suffered last year with the help of Turkish drones and air defence systems, which stopped most air strikes by the LNA and its allies. The LNA is supported by the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Russia.

Wednesday's Misrata blasts came after an attack by the pro-GNA forces on al-Watiya airbase west of the capital, one of the LNA's most important strongholds in western Libya. The pro-GNA forces have also moved towards Tarhouna, another key LNA bastion.

The U.N. Libya mission said last month that during the first quarter of 2020, at least 131 civilians were killed or injured, a rise of 45% over the last quarter of 2019 as the fighting escalated.

It said ground fighting was the main cause of the deaths and that four fifths of them were caused by forces affiliated to the LNA.



## UK to Place All Incoming Travelers Under 14-Day Quarantine

LONDON (Reuters) - British Prime Minister Boris Johnson will announce on Sunday that all travelers coming to the United Kingdom will be quarantined for a fortnight, The Times reported.

"Passengers arriving at airports and ports including Britons returning from abroad, will have to self-isolate for 14 days," the newspaper said, adding that travelers will have to provide the address at which they will self-isolate on arrival.

Travelers from Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man will be exempt, as will lorry drivers bringing crucial supplies, the report added.

The authorities will carry out spot checks and those found to be breaking the rules are to face fines of up to 1,000 pounds or even deportation, the report added.

According to The Times, travelers will have to fill in a digital form with details of where they plan to self-isolate themselves for the duration of the quarantine.

The measures will help reduce the "transmission of the virus as we move into the next phase of our response," the report said, citing a government source.

The measures are expected to come into force in early June.

Johnson will announce a very limited easing of Britain's coronavirus lockdown next week, adopting a cautious approach to try to ensure there is no second peak of infections.



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## Coronavirus May Push Up Euro Zone Borrowing by 1.5 Trillion Euros

FRANKFURT (Reuters) - Euro zone governments may need to borrow an additional 1.5 trillion euros (1.31 trillion pounds) this year to keep their economies afloat amid the coronavirus pandemic, European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde said on Friday.

"The ECB estimates that – in our medium scenario of a drop in GDP of around 8% – the additional government financing needs in the euro area this year resulting from the recession and the required fiscal measures may exceed 10% of euro area GDP," Lagarde said. "This would put the additional debt issuance due to the pandemic in the range of 1 trillion to 1.5 trillion euros in 2020 alone."



## U.S. Suffers Biggest Job Losses In History Amid Coronavirus

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - With shops and factories closed nationwide due to the coronavirus pandemic, nearly all of the jobs created in the U.S. economy in the last decade were wiped out in a single month.

An unprecedented 20.5 million jobs were destroyed in April in the world's largest economy, driving the unemployment rate to 14.7 percent compared to 4.4 percent in March, the Labor Department said in its monthly report, the first to capture the impact of a full month of the lockdowns.

The United States is home to the world's largest and deadliest coronavirus outbreak, with more than 75,000 fatalities and 1.2 million cases reported as of Thursday, according to Johns Hopkins University. The economic damage has been swift and stunning.

In the two years of the global financial crisis, the world's largest economy lost 8.6 million jobs and the unemployment rate peaked at 10 percent in October 2009. During the recovery, from February 2010 to February 2020, 23 million positions were created.

The plunge in nonfarm payroll employment last month was the largest ever recorded dating back to 1939, while the jobless rate saw its highest and biggest increase dating back to 1948, the report said.

And job losses in March were worse than initially reported, falling 870,000 even though the business closures happened mostly in the second half of the month.

Employment fell sharply in all major industry sectors. Leisure and hospitality was the first sector hit and the one bearing the brunt of the impact of the lockdowns, and posted a loss of 7.7 million jobs. However, the Labor Department noted that some workers were misclassified in the report as employed when they should have been counted as laid off. Had they been listed properly, the unemployment rate would have been nearly five percentage points higher.

President Donald Trump said Friday the numbers were expected, and promised: "I'll bring it back."

"Our country is warriors and maybe now more than ever because they are going back to work," he said on Fox News.

And even that double-digit rate underestimates the impact of the virus, since many employees are simply leaving the workforce altogether or have been forced into part-time work instead of full time.

The measure of the labor force as a share of the total population dropped to 51.3 percent, its lowest in history, while number of people not in the labor force who currently want a job nearly doubled to 9.9 million.

New claims for unemployment benefits remain at a staggering 33.5 million since mid-March, meaning the jobless rate could go much higher still.

"We knew it was bad out there but it is looking like it is even worse than we thought," economist Joel Naroff said in his analysis prior to the release of the data.

"Now I am wondering if we will hit 40 million (jobs lost), which would take us to an unemployment rate of 25 percent or more. That is truly scary, as you have to go back to the early 1930s, during the Great Depression, to see anything nearly like that," he said. Despite nearly \$3 trillion in financial aid approved by Congress in March alone and trillions more in liquidity provided by the Federal Reserve, there is a growing fear that the temporary shutdowns imposed to contain the spread of the virus will become permanent for many companies.

## Moody's Sees India's Economic Growth at 0% in 2020-21

NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - Analysts across the board have been certain about the heavy economic toll that the pandemic will take on the country.

In November, Moody's cut the outlook on India's sovereign rating of Baa2 to "negative" from "stable".

The impact of the coronavirus outbreak will exacerbate the material slowdown in India's economic growth, with the country expected to see 0 per cent expansion in the current fiscal year, analysts at Moody's said on Friday.

The ratings agency said it expected India to see no growth in financial year 2021 and bounce back to a 6.6 per cent GDP growth in FY22, while the fiscal deficit is seen rising to 5.5 per cent of GDP in FY21 versus the budgeted estimate of 3.5 per cent.

The COVID-19 spread in the country has also "significantly reduced the prospects of a durable fiscal consolidation," it said in a report. In November, Moody's cut the outlook on India's sovereign rating of Baa2 to "negative" from "stable" due to a slowdown in growth and had said it will monitor the country's debt levels closely.

Baa2 is the second-lowest investment grade score.

"Prolonged financial stress among rural households, weak job creation and, more recently, a credit crunch among non-bank financial institutions have increased the probability of a more entrenched weakening," the agency noted.

If nominal GDP growth does not return to high rates the government will face very significant constraints in narrowing the budget deficit and preventing a rise in the debt burden, Moody's said.

India has so far outlined Rs 1.7 lakh crore stimulus plan providing direct cash transfers and food security measures to give relief



## Taiwan Warns on China-U.S. Trade Frictions as Exports Tick Down

TAIPEI (Reuters) - Taiwan's exports, a key gauge of global demand for gadgets, fell slightly for a second month in April and the government said the second quarter would be tough due to the coronavirus pandemic and renewed concerns over U.S.-China trade friction.

Exports dropped 1.3% from a year earlier to stand at \$25.24 billion (20.37 billion pounds) in April, the finance ministry said. A Reuters poll had forecast an annual drop of 1%.

In March, Taiwan's exports slipped 0.6%, but they have risen 2.4% on the year so far in 2020.

The ministry said strong demand for telecommuting amid the coronavirus outbreak and advanced chips was offset by weakening global consumption for products from textiles to minerals.

Taiwan, whose largest trading partner is China, warned of "limited" growth prospects for the island's exports in the first half, adding that lingering concerns over U.S.-China trade could add to the uncertainty.

Taiwan's May exports were expected to range from a decline of 4% to 6% on the year, Beatrice Tsai, head of the ministry's department of statistics, told reporters. She said it would be "difficult" for exports to maintain growth in the second quarter and the ministry will need to "significantly" trim its earlier forecast of a yearly growth of 2.5% for the period due to gloomy global economic outlook.

While Taiwan has so far prevented a rapid spread of the disease without a total lockdown, the government has repeatedly warned of an uncertain trade outlook and is rolling out an economic stimulus package worth T\$1.05 trillion (\$35 billion).

It has also pledged to lure manufacturers to move production home from China, saying returning investment to Taiwan from China would reach over T\$320 billion this year and give a boost to its economy.

## IMF Giving \$18b to Help 50 Nations Bear Virus Impact

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved a total of \$18 billion so far to help dozens of countries bear the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, a spokesperson said.

"Since roughly the beginning of April until May 6th, yesterday, we have approved financing for 50 countries under these emergency facilities," Gerry Rice, the head of the IMF communications department, said at a virtual press briefing.

"It's an IMF moving at an unprecedented speed in an unprecedented way to meet this unprecedented challenge, which we are all facing of course."

He said over 100 countries had requested or expressed interest in assistance from the IMF since the start of the COVID-19 crisis.

The spokesperson said the fund had increased access to its emergency facilities – the rapid credit facility and the rapid financing instrument – to meet an expected global demand of \$100 billion.

Rice explained that the emergency assistance for COVID-19 was not comparable with normal IMF programs since the funds were not tied to certain conditions.

"Importantly, these facilities allow the Fund to provide emergency assistance without the need to have a full-fledged program. So, they do not entail the usual IMF conditionality," he said.

To ensure misuse of funds, he said member countries were asked to commit that the money was only being used for urgent purposes related to COVID-19.

"The IMF asked countries who receive emergency financing, to commit in their letters of intent, to ensure that this assistance is used for the urgent purposes agreed under the emergency financing," said Rice.

He added that these countries must ensure procurement transparency through enhanced reporting and independent audits of crisis-related spending.

The spokesperson also reiterated the IMF's call for suspension of debt service payments for the poorest countries from bilateral creditors.

"The IMF, for its part, with the approval of our executive board, has gone ahead with immediate debt service relief from the IMF to 25 countries under our revamped Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust, the CCRT."

"And this allows those countries to channel more resources towards vital health and medical relief efforts rather than repay debt obligations owed to the IMF," he added.

## German Exports Plunge in March

BERLIN (Reuters) - German exports fell by 11.8% in March, their steepest drop since current records began in 1990, as the coronavirus crisis reduced demand for goods from Europe's biggest economy, the Federal Statistics Office said on Friday.

Seasonally adjusted imports fell by 5.1% and the trade surplus narrowed to 12.8 billion euros (£11.2 billion) from a downwardly revised 21.4 billion euros in February, the office said.

Economists polled by Reuters had expected exports to fall by 5% and imports by 4%. The trade surplus was expected to come in at 18.9 billion euros. The German government expects the economy, which depends on exports, to shrink by a post-World War Two record of 6.3% despite a massive rescue package of 750 billion euros to cushion the impact of the pandemic.

Economists expect any recovery to be slow and the pace to largely depend on how fast Germany's European neighbors and other trade partners like China and the United States emerge from the crisis. "The interdependence of the global economy will be disastrous for the export sector during the coronavirus crisis," Alexander Krueger of Bankhaus Lampe wrote in a note, adding that the worst was still to come.

Friday's trade figures were the latest data to offer a gloomy outlook for Germany, which had been in its 11th straight year of growth before the outbreak. Both industrial orders and output posted record drops in March, data published earlier this week showed. Germany's export-oriented manufacturers had been struggling with weak demand set off by trade frictions that preceded the coronavirus crisis, leaving the economy to rely on consumption and state spending for growth.

But lockdown and social distancing measures introduced in mid-March have curtailed household spending expectations even as Germany starts to gradually reopen its economy.

A survey by the GfK institute on Friday showed that a third of Germans plan to spend less and 33% believe their financial situation will worsen in the next 12 months. That bodes ill for the prospects of a consumption-driven recovery.

"The new 'normal' will be marked by a difficult economic situation and tight consumer budgets," said Petra Suetpitz of GfK. "Retailers and manufacturers must adjust to this."

A separate survey by the DIHK Chambers of Commerce found that 60% of Germany's companies are suffering from reduced demand and 80% expect revenues to fall this year. The DIHK's Volker Treier said that one silver lining of the crisis could be a detente in the trade conflict between China and the United States, which would benefit German companies present in both countries.

"We are sliding into a global economic crisis," said Treier. "We expect German exports to fall by at least 15% this year."

## Japan Likely Slipped Into First Recession Since 2015



TOKYO (Reuters) - Japan's economy likely shrank for a second straight quarter in the first three months of this year, a Reuters poll showed, meeting the technical definition of recession as the coronavirus pandemic wiped out consumption and business activity.

Gross domestic product (GDP) data, due out on May 18, is likely to show the world's third-largest economy contracted an annualized 4.6% in the January-March period, a poll of 14 analysts showed on Friday.

That would follow a 7.1% decline in the previous quarter, which was blamed on the hit to consumption from a domestic sales tax hike rolled out in October. The two straight quarters of decline would be the first recession since 2015.

"After a huge slump in October-December, one would expect growth to rebound. But what probably happened was a further drop in growth. It will be very weak data," said Yoshiki Shinke, chief economist at Dai-ichi Life Research Institute. "Almost all components likely worsened. Private consumption, in particular, was hit hard and dragged on overall growth," he said.

Consumption, which makes up more than half of Japan's economy, likely fell 1.6% in January-March from the previous quarter, the poll showed. Capital expenditure is also expected to have declined 1.5% after a 4.6% drop in October-December, the poll showed, a sign companies are holding off on spending due to uncertainty over how long it takes for the pandemic to be contained.

External demand's contribution to GDP growth is expected to be negligible, the poll showed. The first-quarter preliminary GDP data will be released at 8:50 a.m. on May 18. Many analysts expect the economy to suffer an even deeper contraction in the current quarter, as the government's decision to declare a state of emergency in April intensified the drive for citizens to stay home and businesses to close.

With infections in Japan exceeding 15,000, the government extended a state of emergency on Monday through to the end of the month, pressuring companies to shut down factories and stores longer than previously expected.

## “Yalda, A Night for Forgiveness” To to Be Screened in Karlovy Vary

TEHRAN (MNA) – The feature film ‘Yalda, A Night for Forgiveness’ by Iranian director Masoud Bakhshi, will be screened in the 55th Karlovy Vary International Film Festival in the Czech Republic.

‘Yalda, A Night for Forgiveness’ depicts the future of a young woman facing retributive justice play out

live on the country’s most popular reality show.

The film has won a top prize at the Sundance Film Festival in the US. The festival’s World Cinema dramatic section gave its grand jury award to ‘Yalda, a Night for Forgiveness’, a drama by Iranian filmmaker Masoud Bakhshi.



# Coronavirus Deals Powerful Blow to Putin’s Grand Plans

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - The bombastic military parade through Moscow’s Red Square on last Saturday was slated to be the spectacle of the year on the Kremlin’s calendar.

Standing with Chinese leader Xi Jinping and French President Emmanuel Macron, President Vladimir Putin would have overseen a 90-minute procession of Russia’s military might, showcasing 15,000 troops and the latest hardware.

But that was before the coronavirus pandemic.

Now, military jets will roar over an eerily quiet Moscow, spurring red, white and blue smoke to mark 75 years since the defeat of Nazi Germany. Putin will lay flowers at a war memorial near an abandoned Red Square and address a nation growing angry with his handling of the country.

The parade is not the only victim of the coronavirus pandemic, which has crippled Russia’s economy, hospitalized the prime minister and slashed Putin’s approval ratings.

Russians had been due last month to cast their votes on constitutional reforms that would have paved the way for Putin to stay in power until 2036, but those plans too were scuppered by the virus. What was supposed to be a triumphant spring for Putin has become a political letdown, observers say, one that could be difficult for the president to recover from.

“This is the first time in 20 years that Putin is facing a crisis this serious,” said political analyst Tatiana Stanovaya. “This is a new experience for him.”

The timing of the pandemic, hitting just as Putin was unveiling major constitutional reforms, amounts to “a powerful blow to his plans”, she told AFP.

After initially reporting fewer cases than in western Europe, Russia has witnessed a grim and steady rise in new coronavirus infections in recent days. Health officials registered another record increase on Thursday and the country now ranks fifth in the world in overall infections.

Russia’s death rate is low compared to the European countries hardest hit, but some observers say that discrepancy is due to how the death count is calculated.

Putin this week praised the government’s response, saying that by implementing mass testing and keeping fatalities low, Russia had become a model for other countries.

“What we did was absolutely right,” he said. “Many foreign countries followed our path.”

Yet many Russians appear to disagree. Unlike other world leaders battling the pandemic, Putin’s approval ratings have not rallied in light of the crisis.

According to independent pollster Levada, they fell to a historic low of 59 percent last month from 63 percent in March.

Already strained by Western sanctions, Russia’s economy is under serious threat from the pandemic, which analysts say could deepen resentment towards the Kremlin.

Since Russia imposed a lockdown to slow the spread of the virus, small businesses have struggled to survive and millions of Russians have been left without wages, despite promises from the government to support companies and employees.

Igor Nikolayev, director of the Institute for Strategic Analysis at FBK Grant Thornton, said the timing of the crisis was unfortunate as it coincided with a steep fall in the price of oil, a key export which balances the Russian budget.



He said Russians were not prepared for this dual shock, noting that 60 percent do not have savings and that real incomes have fallen 7.5 percent over the last year.

Russia can weather the storm for around 18 months, he said, thanks to reserves in its sovereign wealth fund of some \$150 billion.

But if the crisis persists and “life does not become easier, this will affect the attitude of the people to the authorities,” Nikolayev told AFP.

Putin could well bounce back. He has weathered many crises over 20 years in power and is credited by many Russians for bringing the country out of the chaos of the 1990s and restoring its global prestige.

Officials have said both the parade and the constitutional vote will be held later in 2020, though analyst Andrei Kolesnikov said that alone may not be enough to salvage Putin’s year.

Putin “enjoyed Russians’ approval for many years,” said Kolesnikov, of the Carnegie Moscow Centre. “Now he will personally accumulate all their disapproval.”

“In the context of the coronavirus crisis, the vote will not mobilise the nation,” he said, and the military parade alone “will not seriously help support Putin’s falling ratings.”

Stanovaya said that after so many years in power Putin has “distanced himself from the people” and lost the ability to empathize with Russians. If the Kremlin cannot address economic problems, “social irritation will grow, there will be protests,” she warned.

## Oceans May Rise Over a Meter by 2100, Five Meters by 2300



PARIS (AFP) - Oceans are likely to rise as much as 1.3 meters by 2100 if Earth’s surface warms another 3.5 degrees Celsius, scientists warned Friday.

By 2300, when ice sheets covering West Antarctica and Greenland will have shed trillions of tons in mass, sea levels could go up by more than five meters under that temperature scenario, redrawing the planet’s coastlines, they reported in a peer-reviewed survey of more than 100 leading experts.

About ten percent of the world’s population, or 770 million people, today live on land less than five meters above the high tide line.

Even if the Paris climate treaty goal of capping global warming below 2C is met -- a very big “if” -- the ocean watermark could go up two meters by 2300, according to a study in the journal Climate Atmospheric Science.

Earth’s average surface temperature has risen just over one degree Celsius since the pre-industrial era, a widely used benchmark for measuring global warming.

“It is clear now that previous sea-level rise estimates have been too low,” co-author Stefan Rahmstorf, head of Earth system analysis at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK), told AFP.

The new projections for both the 2100 and 2300 horizons are significantly higher than those from the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), including a special report on oceans it released in September.

“The IPCC tends to be very cautious and conservative, which is why it had to correct itself upwards already several times,” Rahmstorf said.

Sea-level projections in the IPCC’s landmark 2014 Assessment Report were 60 percent above those in the previous edition, he noted. A new Assessment will be finalized by the end of next year.

While less visible than climate-enhanced hurricanes or persistent drought, sea level rise may ultimately prove the most devastating of global warming impacts.

Indeed, it is the extra centimeters of ocean water that make storm surges from ever-stronger tropical cyclones so much more deadly and destructive, experts say.

## Shortages of Virus Test Materials Critical

VIENNA (AFP) - Shortages of materials needed in tests for the novel coronavirus remain “critical”, according to the head of a UN lab, which is supplying countries with COVID-19 detection kits.

In particular the chemical reagents for the tests are still in short supply, said Giovanni Cattoli, head of the Animal Production and Health Laboratory run jointly by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

“There is indeed on the global market a shortage of some items, particularly reagents, because there are demands from all over the world,” Cattoli told AFP this week during a tour of the laboratory at Seibersdorf, 40 kilometres (25 miles) outside Vienna. “The situation is still critical,” he said. “We are working... to accelerate purchase and investigate if there are alternative reagents.”

### U.S. Breach...

FROM PAGE 1

“Policies and actions by some countries have undermined the credibility of the UN and the rule of law, countries such as the United States, which breaches international law and regulations, and whose foreign policy is addict to using inhumane tools like unilateral sanctions,” he said.

Takht Ravanchi further lashed out at Washington’s policy of withdrawing from international organization and agreements, including its pullout from the Iran nuclear deal known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) as well as its violation of UNSCR 2231. “Such policies have created challenges for multilateralism and has jeopardized collective interests of world countries,” he said. “The world should make every effort to get the policy of power replaced with the rule of law, and confrontation with cooperation,” he said.

### U.S. Sets Up...

FROM PAGE 1

The U.S. has been plundering Syria’s natural resources and collaborating with Takfiri militants to topple the government of President Bashar al-Assad.

Syria has managed to score a victory in the nine-year war, while Turkey is “pulled agonizingly” in several directions, says a former deputy director of the US spy agency CIA. The Damascus government, which is conducting a military campaign against the foreign-backed terrorists, has repeatedly called for withdrawal of the U.S. occupation forces from Syria.

Trump extends national emergency to continue Syria occupation

On Friday, U.S. President Donald Trump extended for one year the “national emergency” for Syria in order to continue its occupation of the Arab country. According to a White House statement, Trump took the decision “to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States constituted by the actions of the Government of Syria.”

“The United States will consider changes in the composition, policies, and actions of the Government of Syria in determining whether to continue or terminate this national emergency in the future,” it said.

### India...

FROM PAGE 1

Malaysia has also stepped up purchases since February and has so far bought a record 327,292 tons of sugar, according to data compiled by AISTA.

Indonesian buying has now slowed but Iran is still making purchases, said a Mumbai-based dealer with global trading firm, who is not authorized to speak to the media. India’s total sugar exports in the current marketing year could rise above 5 million tons, up from earlier trade estimates of 4.5 million tons, the dealer said.

Some industry officials, including Praful Vithalani, president of AISTA, expect mills will be able to achieve 6 million tons target set by New Delhi for the current marketing year. The depreciation in rupee to a record low has been offsetting drop in global prices and making exports lucrative, Vithalani said. India had set an export target of 5 million tons for 2018/19, but mills managed to export only 3.8 million tons despite incentives provided by New Delhi.

### U.N Urged...

FROM PAGE 1

The U.S. withdrawal from the deal and restoration of the oppressive sanctions on Iran should be considered as a warning against international peace and security. In fact, this is the first time in the history of the UN that a permanent member of the UNSC punishes the member states for following a Security Council resolution.

It is high time that the UNSC and its members guaranteed a complete implementation of the JCPOA by its parties. Instead of passively observing the insulting actions of the US, The UNSC should severely condemn the US re-imposition of illegal sanctions against the people of Iran, which is an overt violation of Resolution 2231 and international law. The US should be made accountable for the damage made to the people of Iran and all the damages should be compensated. The international community should guarantee the implementation of and loyalty to the JCPOA.

Zarif also wrote in his letter to the UN chief that with the U.S. withdrawal from the deal while preserving its rights stipulated in Article 26 of the JCPOA, Iran in an official letter activated Article 36 of the deal on May 10, 2018. To show good faith and to provide the member states of the deal, Iran did not immediately stop its JCPOA commitments.

Zarif wrote to Guterres that as you said, “It is essential that all concerns regarding the implementation of the Plan be addressed through the mechanisms established in the JCPOA.”

Also, as demanded by the international community and the remaining signatories of the JCPOA, while Iran had the right to immediately pursue its rights according to the deal, it decided to pursue them through the Joint Commission and to continue full implementation of the deal.

As mentioned in Iran’s statement issued on January 20, 2015, following the confirmation of the deal in the UNSC, removal of the sanctions by the US and the European Union means that all the trades and activities mentioned in the JCPOA with Iran and the Iranian people should be done with no fear of punishment due to extraterritorial impediments. The JCPOA openly states that both the U.S. and the EU should avoid restoration and re-imposition of the restrictive sanctions that were removed by the JCPOA.

Unfortunately, as the result of the re-imposition of sanctions on Iran since May 2018, Iran has been deprived of the benefits of removal of the sanctions stipulated in the JCPOA. In fact, the understanding was that Iran “will treat such a re-introduction or re-imposition of the sanctions specified in Annex II, or such an imposition of new nuclear-related sanctions, as grounds to cease performing its commitments under this JCPOA in whole or in part”. It was stated in Article 26 of the deal.

### Over 85,000 Iranians...

FROM PAGE 1

Harirchi made the remarks on how perfectly Iran’s healthcare system acted to keep the death toll and hospitalizing level low despite the high number of COVID-19 infection.

“The recent studies indicated 10-12 or 15 percent of infections mainly fewer disease symptoms or symptomless cases and if the case turns out to be true, it is a great achievement for the country,” he continued.

He added that it is urgent for people to implement hygienic protocols and keep social distancing.

Iran’s Health official elsewhere said the outbreak in Khuzestan has been later other Iran’s cities that is why the number is rocketing.

The official stated the as it has been said the warm weather would not vanish the virus, like the cases you see in Southern Iran cities such as Khuzestan’s cities, so the hygienic protocols are a must to be implemented.

### Swiss...

FROM PAGE 1

“No transactions have yet been carried out. Unfortunately, this whole process has been slower than expected...,” said Maiefisch.

The comments prove statements by the Iranian government saying that US officials have been disingenuous in claiming that Iran’s humanitarian needs are exempt from the harsh regime of sanctions imposed on the country.

Iran has made it clear that the sanctions have not affected its robust response to a new coronavirus pandemic that has infected more than 100,000 people and led to over 6,000 deaths in the country.

However, governments and rights organizations have criticized the U.S. for its refusal to lift the sanctions at the time the Iranian health system is under pressure, saying the bans violate the most basic principles of human rights.

## Quintana to Miss Vuelta a Espana

LONDON (Dispatches) - The Vuelta a Espana revealed its final line up on Friday with a roster of 19 cycling world tour teams and three wild card invites that excluded Nairo Quintana's Arkea-Samsic.

Colombian climber Quintana rode with top Spanish outfit Movistar from 2012-2019, winning the Giro d'Italia in 2014 and the Vuelta in 2016.

There was no place either for Mathieu van der Poel's Alpecin outfit.

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## Holyfield Makes Charity Comeback at 57

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Four-time heavyweight boxing champion Evander Holyfield says he is making a ring comeback for charity at age 57, hoping to help first responders and children combat the coronavirus pandemic.

And it could set the stage for a third fight against Mike Tyson more than 20 years after the originals. Holyfield said he would fight in exhibition matches to raise support for Unite4OurFight, which helps learning and emotional development projects aimed at children whose schooling was disrupted by the deadly virus outbreak.

8 IRAN NEWS

SPORTS

SUNDAY MAY 10, 2020

# European Leagues President Warns Against Opportunist Changes to Football

BERN (Reuters) - The coronavirus stoppage should not be used as an excuse to bend European football's Financial Fair Play rules or make "opportunistic" changes to the international calendar, the head of the European Leagues umbrella organization said on Friday.

As football begins to reawaken after the stoppage, which began in mid-March, European Leagues president Lars-Christer Olsson, whose members include 27 top-flight leagues, told Reuters he believed most clubs would survive.

The Bundesliga is due to re-start on May 16 while leagues in Hungary, Croatia, Poland, Portugal and Serbia have also set dates for a resumption.

Olsson said he was "sincerely worried" about the Financial Fair Play (FFP) rules, which bar clubs from spending more than the revenue they generate and were introduced to stop rich owners from pumping money into their clubs.

Some clubs had asked for them to be dropped during recent discussions, Olsson said.

"What is important is that the coronavirus doesn't mean we abolish Financial Fair Play and club licensing rules because that will undermine the achievements so far," he said in a phone interview from Sweden.

He said that ending FFP would be "the opportunity for the richest clubs to widen the gap. This would take us back to the time where the clubs had debts which continued to build ... and that would be detrimental."

## Barca Return to Training As La Liga Eyes Restart

MADRID (Dispatches) - Barcelona returned to training on Friday after the La Liga champions allowed their stars to enter their facility to prepare for a potential restart to football in Spain.

Lionel Messi and company took the fields at Joan Gamper training centre for individual sessions, for which the players arrived alone in kit and took to the three pitches without passing through the changing rooms.

As well as doing their routines, they were also subjected to tests to see what effect two months of coronavirus quarantine has had on their bodies.

"Finally we are getting back to normal. We hope to carry on and that soon we can get back to enjoying what we like to do most," Arturo Vidal told sports daily Marca.

Sevilla, Villarreal, Osasuna and Leganes also returned to training, while Real Madrid -- who were two points behind league leaders Barca when play stopped in mid-March -- will likely start again on Monday should their players pass virus tests carried out on Wednesday.

That would mark almost two months since Real had been placed in quarantine following a positive test for a member of the club's basketball team.

According to Spanish media, none of Real's players have suffered from virus symptoms, but Zinedine Zidane will have to do without Serb attacker Luka Jovic after Real announced on Friday he had fracture his right heel.

Footballers in Spain have restarted training following the announcement last week of government plan that aims to end quarantine for professional players.

Individual training sessions are the first step to what La Liga hopes will be a return to action in June that will complete the 2019-20 season behind closed doors.

The first aspect of a four-phase de-escalation program allows a maximum of six players on the pitch at any one time.

Olsson said that, while FFP was introduced for European competition, some national leagues had subsequently adopted their own versions of it.

"There should be more licensing, not less," he said.

He was also unimpressed by FIFA president Gianni Infantino's suggestion that this could be the time to reform the calendar and by vice-president Victor Montagliani's proposal that Europe could switch to a calendar-year season.

"It is opportunistic because it's trying to change things by using the crisis as the reason and moving things in the direction of their own ideas, rather than having a proper decision-making process," said Olsson.

"They are also taking the opportunity to create room for new FIFA competitions like the Club World Cup so we have to be cautious."

Despite the long stoppage, Olsson said he was optimistic that clubs would avoid the worst.

"Generally speaking the governments have accepted their responsibilities... for the future life of football clubs," he said.

## India to Accept Quarantine to Save Aussie Test Series

NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - India's cricket team is prepared to undergo quarantine to salvage a money-spinning Test series against Australia, a top official said Friday, but there was less optimism about this year's Twenty20 World Cup taking place Down Under.

Virat Kohli's men are scheduled to contest a four Test series in Australia towards the end of the year but will need to isolate for two weeks under current COVID-19 rules.

Board of Control for Cricket in India treasurer Arun Dhumal said the Test team were willing to make that sacrifice to save the series, which cash-strapped Cricket Australia desperately needs to replenish its coffers.

"There is no choice -- everyone will have to do that (quarantine). You would want to resume the cricket," Dhumal told Fairfax newspapers.

"Two weeks is not that long a lockdown."

Australia this month dethroned India as the world's top-ranked Test team, setting up the series as a blockbuster rivalry. The series would also generate hundreds of millions of dollars for a host organisation struggling during the coronavirus shutdown.

Revenue from the series is so important to Cricket Australia that it has proposed adding a fifth Test, which would mean ditching a one-off Test against Afghanistan in November.



"There is a good chance that almost all clubs will survive especially if we start (playing) now... commercial partners have taken their responsibility towards the clubs in a very good way so far."

Olsson said he was happy that football was starting again and that there had been an "exchange of best practices" between the leagues.

"We have been working for the last month or so, trying to convince all leagues that they should work on establishing protocols for conditions on restarting the season," he said.

"The main condition is that starting football should not increase the general health risk. There are some risks involved but this is a cautious and sensible way of playing matches."

He added: "Psychologically, it's very important because football is important for a lot of people and it is a good sign for society in general that football can resume and be played in a secure way."

## Real Madrid's Jovic Injures Foot

MADRID (Reuters) - Real Madrid forward Luka Jovic has not conducted full training or played any matches for over two months due to the coronavirus pandemic, but he somehow still managed to break his foot and is expected to be out of action for around seven weeks.

A statement from Real on Friday said the Serbia striker, who cost 60 million euros (\$2.36 million pounds) last year but has only scored two goals all season, had fractured a bone in his right foot but did not say when Jovic could hope to return.

Spanish newspaper El Pais reported that Jovic had injured himself training at home in the Spanish capital and said he would be out for around seven weeks.

Jovic, 22, was given permission to return to Serbia during Spain's state of emergency to fight the pandemic but was caught breaking the rules of Serbia's lockdown in March.

Real, who are two points behind leaders Barcelona in the Spanish title race with 11 fixtures remaining, are due to return to individual training for the first time in two months on Monday.



## Son Heung-min Earns Military Accolade

LONDON (Dispatches) - Tottenham Hotspur striker Son Heung-min was named one of the top five recruits in his unit as he finished three weeks of compulsory military training in South Korea on Friday.

South Korea's marine corps posted pictures of Son wielding an M-16 assault rifle and saluting on their Facebook page as he completed his stint at a boot camp.

All able-bodied South Korean men are obliged to serve in the military for nearly two years, making up the bulk of Seoul's 600,000-strong forces -- who face off against North Korea's army of 1.3 million.

But Son -- the top Asian goalscorer in Premier League history, and the Asian Football Confederation's reigning international player of the year -- was in the South Korean team that earned an exemption by winning gold at the 2018 Asian Games in Indonesia.

The Spurs star broke down in tears of joy after the 2-1 extra-time win over Japan, which meant he could fulfil his obligations with just three weeks' basic training and around 500 hours of community service.

In April he reported to a marines camp on the island of Jeju for the basic training, which involved lengthy hikes, as well as tear-gas training and rifle practice.

He was judged among the five best recruits out of 157 on his course, a spokesperson for the Republic of Korea Marine Corps told AFP.



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Revenue from the series is so important to Cricket Australia that it has proposed adding a fifth Test, which would mean ditching a one-off Test against Afghanistan in November.



## Klose Joins Bayern as Assistant Coach

BERLIN (Dispatches) - Miroslav Klose, who holds the record for the most goals scored at men's World Cups, has joined Bayern Munich as assistant coach, it was announced.

"It feels very good. I'm really looking forward to the task," said the 41-year-old, who scored 16 goals at four World Cups and won the 2014 title with Germany. Klose will be on the Bayern bench when the Bundesliga restarts in nine days after having been suspended since mid-March due to the coronavirus, with Bayern travelling to Union Berlin on Sunday May 17.

The former Bayern striker says joining his old club is "the next step" in his coaching career after having worked with their Under-17 team for the last two seasons.

Klose signed a deal until June 2021 which reunites him with Bayern head coach Hansi Flick, Germany's assistant coach at the 2014 World Cup.

"We trust each other both professionally and personally," Klose said of Flick.

Klose's record on the pitch speaks for itself with 71 goals in 137 internationals for Germany. "With his experience as a former professional at the highest international level, 'Miro' is the perfect addition to our team of coaches," said Flick.

Klose also scored 53 goals in 150 appearances for Bayern, who he left for Lazio in 2011 before retiring after five years in Italy.

