

**IRAN NEWS Expresses Its Condolences on the Occasion of Demise Anniversary of Imam Khomeini (R) and Khordad 15 Uprising. The Next Issue Will Hit the News-Stands on Saturday**

# IRAN NEWS



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## Iran to Always Stand by Afghanistan

TEHRAN (MNA) – Referring to the friendly and fraternal relations between the two countries, the Presidents of Iran and Afghanistan in a phone call stressed the need to work for the comprehensive development and strengthening of Tehran-Kabul relations in order to ensure the interests of both nations.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani held a phone talk on Monday on the expansion of the bilateral cooperation.

Rouhani congratulated him on his new term in office and expressed satisfaction with the agreement reached between the political groups in the country, expressing hope that with the efforts of all elements of the government and the High Council for National Reconciliation to achieve greater peace, stability and security in Afghanistan.

Referring to the measures and successes of Iran in the fight against coronavirus and providing free medical and health services to Afghan immigrants, he said, "Health services to the Afghan brothers in the fight against coronavirus will be continued."

Stating that the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is to develop fraternal and friendly relations and cooperation with all neighbors, especially Afghanistan, he noted, "We consider the development of stability and security in Afghanistan in line with our own stability and security and believe that disagreements among groups can be resolved within the framework of principles and we are always by the side of the Afghan government and people in doing so."

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## 81 More Iranians Die From COVID-19

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - The head of Iranian Health Ministry's Public Relations Office said on Monday that 81 more Iranians died from coronavirus over the past 24 hours bringing the total deaths to 7,878.

Kianoush Jahanpour said that 121,004 people out of a total of 154,445 infected with coronavirus have survived and recovered, but, unfortunately, the total number of deaths reached 7,878.

Jahanpour said that 2,979 new infected cases have been detected since yesterday, 78% of which (2,327 cases) have been mild ones.

He also noted that 2,578 cases are in critical condition and hospitalized in ICU.

Jahanpour went on to say that 955,865 tests have so far been carried out in Iran since the crisis started.

## U.S. Sanctions Not to Stop Iran Trade With Other States



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN – Government Spokesman Ali Rabiee says the U.S. unilateral sanctions would not ban or stop the Islamic Republic of Iran to trade with other countries.

Speaking in a press conference and in response to a question, Rabiee said that the Iranian's oil-tankers heading to Venezuela carrying fuel, is a normal thing without any political intention behind.

Highlighting that Iran-Venezuela trading is based on international rules and regulations, he reiterated that both countries' trade will be continued and Iran will trade with any country it intends.

He adds that "The U.S. sanctions against Iran and Iranians will get nowhere. The U.S. could not halt Iran's trading with countries. The United States must not breach its motto that 'the US protects high seas trading' with its unwise actions and measures."

Responding to the question on Islamic Republic of Iran's stance on the recent unrests and riots in the United States and the country's violence against black people, Rabiee said that unlike the U.S., Iran won't interfere in any country's internal affairs.

"Iran is monitoring the unrests and riots in the United States closely which are a cause for concern. The unrests indicate nothing but how the U.S. is careless and indifferent to justice. The U.S. must change and reform its policies instead of challenging the world," the spokesman emphasized.

Rabiee, referring to the appointment of Imam's successor on June 4, 1989, said that fortunately, with the collective wisdom and public support, the best transition of leadership took place, which has stabilized the country to date.

During his weekly press conference, he referred to June 4 and 5, noting that these days provide an opportunity for the government to re-pledge allegiance to the ideals of the Imam and the Islamic Revolution as a permanent symbol of the fight against oppression and tyranny.

Rabiee further stated that "We were not a government with a lot of foreign exchange earnings. We were a government that worked hard to run the country. In March, 65,000 billion tomans of our businesses were damaged because of COVID-19. Coronavirus showed us that with the cooperation and coordination of all agencies and the government, we can overcome all crises."

"With the coming to power of the unbalanced government in the United States, which has challenged not only Iran but also the world, our country has stood firm, and we continue to stand firm," Rabiee added.

While appreciating the Islamic Revolution Leader for choosing the name of the year as 'Surge in Production', he said: "the government was aware that the surge in production was an irreplaceable way to get through the two viruses of sanctions and Coronavirus."

## U.S. Revealing Its Ugly Face by Cracking Down on Anti-Racism Protests

TEHRAN (IFP) - A senior Iranian military official has hit out at the United States for discriminating against the people of color as well as its police brutality.

Brigadier General Abolfazl Shekarchi touched upon U.S. President Donald Trump's racist behavior as well as U.S. police's inhumane violence against its citizens and black people.

"Unlike its false human rights slogans, the arrogant U.S. government has revealed its ugly and inhumane face more than ever these days by confronting public protests, and has destabilized the pillars of its false democracy by resorting to the most violent methods," said General Shekarchi, the deputy chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces.

"The arrogant U.S. Establishment is witnessing widespread unrest and riots across the nation these days while White House officials are contributing to many problems in the region and across the globe by pursuing interventionist policies," he added. The top general touched upon false news spread by some Western media where they blamed Iranian border guards for the deaths of a number of Afghan nationals on the Iranian border.

"Such false reports are aimed at harming cordial relations between Iran and Afghanistan," he noted.

"Iran has hosted more than three million Afghan refugees over the past three decades, and deep-rooted religious and ethnic bonds [between the two nations] have left no doubt that some divisive moves cannot serve as a hurdle to the sustenance of these bonds," he added.

Elsewhere in his remarks, General Shekarchi referred to the US Treasury Department's farcical move to put on its sanctions list the name of several Iranian officials and military commanders, including the interior minister and the police chief. "Such troublesome moves which are made out of desperation will not be able to harm, even slightly, the willpower of people and officials of the Islamic Establishment when it comes to countering the hegemonic and domineering temperament of the U.S.," he said.

"The hollow grandeur of the United States is falling apart, and the sound of its bones breaking is heard more clearly than ever," he noted. General Shekarchi said the widespread unrest across the U.S. and the divergence of Washington's traditional allies are a testament to the truthfulness of his remarks.

## Any Hostile Miscalculation to Receive Crushing Response

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces warned the enemies that a miscalculation in dealing with Iran will trigger a decisive and immediate response from the country's military forces.

In a statement on the occasion of the anniversary of passing away of Imam Khomeini, Major General Mohammad Hossein Baqeri said the Iranian Armed Forces are fully prepared to counter threats and respond to hostile measures.

The Iranian military forces are vigorously protecting the country's independence, territorial integrity, and national security, the commander said.

Under the guidance of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, the Armed Forces are sticking to a strategy to "boost deterrent power, maximize defense capacities, and update the offense tactics proportional to potential threats posed by the front of enemies," the senior commander added.

Major General Baqeri further gave an assurance that Iran's military forces remain vigilant at all times to deal with the modern seditions and plots against the Islamic Republic. "As we have announced several times, we will decisively and immediately give retaliatory response to any miscalculation from them (enemies) at any place and any time."

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## Tehran Ready to Ship More Fuel to Caracas

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran has said it will continue fuel shipments to Venezuela if Caracas requests more supplies, despite criticism from the United States of trade between the two nations, both under U.S. sanctions.

"Iran practices its free trade rights with Venezuela, and we are ready to send more ships if Caracas demands more supplies from Iran," foreign ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi told a weekly news conference broadcast live on state television on Monday.

The first of five Iranian oil tankers arrived in Venezuela last week to help ease fuel shortages, encountering no immediate signs of U.S. military interference. Venezuelan authorities described "threats" from the United States over the shipments.

Mousavi also criticized South Korea for following the United States' interventions, which have undermined Tehran-Seoul mutual relations.

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## China Threatens to Counter-Attack U.S. Over Hong Kong Curbs

BEIJING (AFP)- Beijing warned Washington Monday of retaliation after President Donald Trump announced restrictions on Chinese students in the US in protest against a new national security law in Hong Kong.

China also said ongoing unrest in the US highlighted its severe problems of racism and police violence -- and exposed Washington's double standards in supporting Hong Kong's protesters.

The two sides have clashed repeatedly on different topics and on Friday Trump said he would restrict Chinese graduate students and start reversing the special status enjoyed by semi-autonomous Hong Kong in customs and other areas.

Beijing reacted angrily to the moves, saying it was "detrimental to both sides".

"Any words and actions that harm the interests of China will be met with counter-attacks on the Chinese side," said foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian at a press briefing Monday.

He said that Washington's measures "seriously interfere in China's internal affairs and undermine US-China relations".

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# Iranians Residing in Belarus Back Home

TEHRAN (ILNA) - Iranian students and compatriots residing in Belarus returned home after a month of continuous and intensive consultations and follow-ups by Iran's Embassy in the country.

The exclusive flight was conducted after coordination with the officials of Foreign Ministry, Road and Urban Development Ministry, Iran's Civil Aviation Organization and Iran Air.

Iran's Embassy expressed gratitude to the deputy minister of roads and urban development for transportation affairs as well as head of Iran's Civil Aviation Organization for operating the flight.

## Iran Among Leading Countries in Fight Against Coronavirus

TEHRAN (IFP) - The Iranian health minister says Iran is one of the world's leading countries in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Saeid Namaki said Iran's success comes despite unfair sanctions imposed by the United States.

"Fortunately, Iran's situation with regards to fighting coronavirus is very acceptable despite all the hardship and problems caused by sanctions, and despite all economic restrictions and equipment shortages they imposed on us," he said.

"We can say with certainty that Iran is one of the countries that are at the forefront of the campaign against coronavirus," he said.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the minister said it would be naïve to think the coronavirus outbreak is over.

"Today, we should observe the minimum [required directives] and maintain social distancing and try to keep abiding by instructions and health protocols," he said.

"The biggest problem would be for people to think that everything is back to normal and the coronavirus is gone," the minister noted.

He urged authorities to not believe that the situation is normal and



everything could be returned to normal.

The health minister further said the COVID-19 outbreak has been contained and managed in most provinces.

"In some provinces, we are seeing new surges in the disease, but our colleagues are on the watch, and if people continue to maintain their rapport and national unity while following health tips, we hope that we will have more tranquil days in two months' time," he noted.

The minister also said there is no shortage of hospital beds in the country.

"We are also not worried about how to manage our own colleagues with regards to the coronavirus outbreak," he said.

## Iran, Iraq Call for Developing Trade Ties

BAGHDAD (IRNA)- Iranian ambassador to Iraq Iraj Masjedi and Iraqi new Finance Minister Ali Abdul Ameer Allawi on Monday discussed various ways to bolster economic ties between the two countries.

In a meeting with Iraqi official, Masjedi extended his congratulations on the Iraqi minister's new appointment and delivered an invitation from Iranian Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance Farhad Dejjpasand to him to visit Iran.

Allawi expressed gratitude for invitation from his Iranian counterpart and he expressed hope that he would pay a visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran in the near future at the head of a trade and economic delegation.

Economic relations between Iran and Iraq have expanded and the volume of trade has increased in recent years.

## Chinese Parliament Calls for More Cooperation With Iran's Parliament

TEHRAN (IRNA)- The speaker of the Chinese parliament congratulated Mohammad-Baqer Qalibaf's election as Iran's new parliament speaker and called for expansion of relations between the two legislative bodies.

Li Zhanshu said in his message on Monday that China is willing to expand comprehensive relations and strategic cooperation with Iran.

Saying that, in the past years, the relations between Tehran and Beijing have been on the rise, Li added China-Iran relations are strategic and long-term.

Li said that he is willing to expand relations between the Committee of the National People's Congress and Iran's Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis).

He also wished health and success for Qalibaf and prosperity and progress for Iran.

## "Khordad 15 Uprising" the Biggest Sacrifice in Recent Decades

TEHRAN (IP) - President Hassan Rouhani noted to the upcoming anniversary of the June 4, 1963 (Khordad15) uprising and said: "On the occasion of the nation support for the Imam, the June 4 incident took place and this uprising was the biggest sacrifice in our country in recent decades."

President Rouhani referred to the election of the Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei after the demise of Imam Khomeini, saying "In less than 24 hours, with the election of the Leader, the dream of the enemies did not come true."

The President stated, "In the uprising of June 4, 1963, the people made a great sacrifice that led to the safeguarding of the path of the Revolution and the life of our dear and noble Imam (Imam Khamenei), who took over the leadership."

Rouhani added, "We honor the memory of late great Imam and we also remember the very important decision taken by the Assembly of Experts on the 14th of Khordad and in the fastest possible time with the remarks and guidance of Imam Khomeini, the right successor and true successor being appointed."

Rouhani said: "with the disturbing dream (nightmare) our enemies predicted that after the passing away of the Imam and they thought that in the country after his loss here will be neither security nor unity, nor the Assembly of Experts would be able to determine the next leader for weeks. It did not come true, and it was God's providence that was revealed on the 14th of Khordad who is the leader of the Islamic system."

He added, "Praise be to God, we see that under this educated leadership, our nation and country have been protected against all kinds of conspiracies."

## Syrian Speaker Calls for Parliamentary Cooperation With Iran

TEHRAN (IRNA)- Syrian Speaker of Parliament Hammouda Sabbagh in a message to Iranian Speaker of Parliament Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf on Monday called for enhanced parliamentary cooperation between the two countries.

Hammouda Sabbagh sent a message on Monday, wishing success for Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, Iranian Parliament speaker, in carrying out his duty, calling for parliamentary cooperation between Syria and Iran in the new term of Iranian parliament.

The Syrian Speaker called for strengthening fraternal relations between the two nations.

Addressing Qalibaf, the Speaker of the Syrian Parliament said: "I am pleased with your new post that I sincerely congratulate you on your election on the occasion of the election of your Excellency as the Speaker of Iranian Parliament. I express myself and I wish you success in your new post."

On this occasion, the Syrian Parliament gives importance to develop parliamentary cooperation and strengthen fraternal relations and cooperation between the People's Assembly of the Syrian Arab Republic and Iranian Parliament and regional and international cooperation.

### SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT



PERMIT NO : 1399.1007

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY - AHVAZ-IRAN

**TENDER NO.: 08-21-9640005**

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY (NISOC) INTENDS TO PURCHASE THE FOLLOWING GOODS:

ITEMS	MATERIAL DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY
01	ACCESSORIES FOR COILED TUBING LOGGING REEL REF CAMESA ELECTRICAL CABLE TYPE 7J46RXZ-HS HIGH STRENGTH,7-CONDUCTOR	4RL
02	15/32 IN. (11.79 MM) , 15000 FEET LONG 15/32 IN. (11.79 MM) , 22000 FEET LONG	4RL

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tender are requested to send their "INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to qualitative assessment Form no.2, available at [www.nisoc.ir](http://www.nisoc.ir) not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for Participation in the tender will be disregarded. The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 8,255 EURO or 1,180,000,000 RIAL in favor of NISOC.

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NO ADVANCE PAYMENT WILL BE PAID

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### SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT



PERMIT NO : 1399.1012

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY - AHVAZ-IRAN

**TENDER NO.: 48-32-9700004**

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY (NISOC) INTENDS TO PURCHASE THE FOLLOWING GOODS:

ITEMS	MATERIAL DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY
02	PORTABLE HIGH PRESSURE PUMP UNIT API 674, DRIVER: DIESEL, SKID MOUNTED	01 + 1 SET SPARE PART

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tender are requested to send their "INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to qualitative assessment Form no.1, available at [www.nisoc.ir](http://www.nisoc.ir) not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for Participation in the tender will be disregarded. The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 7,789.14 EURO or 1,250,000,000 RIAL in favor of NISOC.

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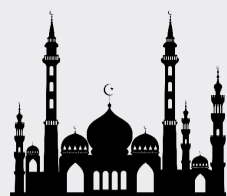
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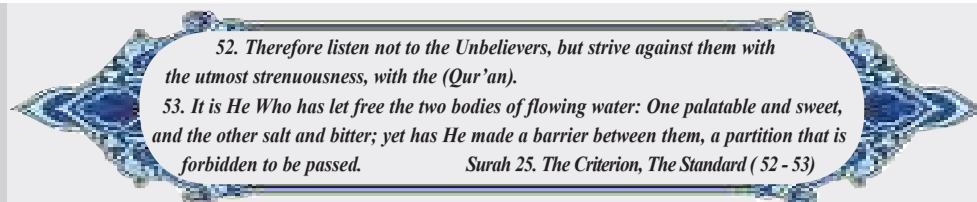
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## PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	13:02
■ Evening (Maghreb)	20:36
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:04
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	05:49



## Real Per Capita Income Declined by One-Third

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

**TEHRAN – The caretaker of Majlis Research Center (IPRC) says all the reports and studies of the center which have been read in the open sessions of Majlis have been based on document, adding that the real per capita income has declined by one-third in the past nine years.**

Speaking in the open session of Majlis, Mohammad Qasemi defended the report of the center on the current economic condition of the country, adding that all reports have been authentic and based on documents.

He said that as the Supreme Leader has said, economy is a decisive issue in the country which has faced managerial and structural weaknesses since the victory of the Islamic Revolution. He reiterated that all reports of the center are based on the logical economic patterns.

Qasemi noted that Iran's economy in the past years has faced several structural challenges. He said in the country's macro economy, the economy has always faced the downtrend growth rate, several fluctuations in the economic growth and the growth in dependence on oil, adding that while the economic growth target of the country has been set on 8 percent for the fifth and sixth development plans, the average economic growth of the country has been close to zero between 2012 and 2019 and during these years, country's economic growth has been between minus 8.3 to plus 14 percent.

He said economic growth needs enough investment, adding that accumulation of capitals in oil, gas, industry, mines, construction and communications have been negative since 2012, adding that at the same time, the annual growth of these sectors was 3.5 percent on average in the past seven years before 2012.



On the inflation, he said the long-term average inflation rate of the national economy has been 20 percent, adding that most countries have resolved the issue of inflation while in Iran it is still a major problem and it actually has cut the real per capita income by one-thirds since 2011.

He reiterated that the government can be the first victim of the inflation and the rise in the government's current expenditures can lead to the budget deficit.

Qasemi added that in several international economic indexes, the country's condition has worsened, adding that the business environment in the country is also not satisfactory.

He reiterated that those mentioned problems are not limited to a certain government and all governments in the country have had their own weaknesses.

Qasemi noted that the current government will face at least with 185,000b tomans of budget deficit by the year end.

He added that as long as the banking system of the country is not reformed, problems cannot be solved by the government

## Iran Drops in Global Resilience Index Rankings

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

**TEHRAN – Iran with five place drop in the FM Global Resilience Index ranked 125 which indicates the slump in the economic resistance of the country.**

According to Tehran Chamber of Commerce, in the latest rankings issued by FM Global, Iran slumped five places in economic resilience and stood at the 125<sup>th</sup> place.

The chamber in its analysis and report said that Norway, Switzerland and Denmark with gaining 100, 98.8 and 98.4 points ranked first to third among 130 countries in the rankings in terms of resilience index.

Meanwhile Haiti, Venezuela and Ethiopia finished at the bottom of the rankings by scoring zero, 8.9 and 13.8 points respectively. Iran, by scoring only 21.1 points in terms of resilience index, finished 125<sup>th</sup>.

The chamber in its study over the recent ranking of FB Global, said that Iran scored its most points in the supply chain comparing to other indexes. Iran scored 13.6, 10 and 31.5 points in economy, risk and supply chain respectively while the lowest point was scored in the risk.

But the chamber in its study says Iran has started uptrend progress in the FM Global rankings since 2016 but it has faced downturn since 2019 and this year it has just scored 21.1 points.

In 12 factors which countries are evaluated, Iran has scored its lowest point in the dominance of companies category by being ranked 126<sup>th</sup>. Iran has also scored one of the lowest points in fight with corruption index.

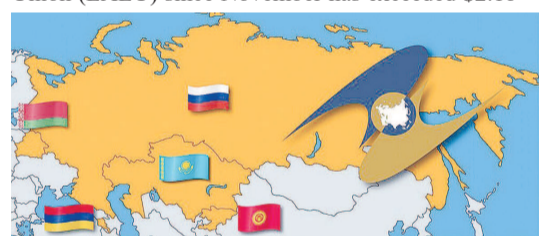
The best important point was scored in the quality of infrastructure index which helped the country to rank 86<sup>th</sup> among 130 countries.



## Iran Trade With EAEU Hits \$2.1b

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

**TEHRAN – Spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran says the trade volume of Iran with Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) since November has exceeded \$2.1b**



Speaking to ILNA on the foreign trade of the country, Rouhollah Latifi said that the volume of Iran's trade with EAEU states since November has surpassed \$2.11b, and over \$1.528b of the total amount account for Iran's imports and \$583.4m account for exports.

Latifi reiterated some \$1.12b of trade with EAEU states, which is 53 percent of total trade, has been based on preferential trade agreement, some exemptions and discounts.

He added that some \$966.3m of Iran's imports have been based on the preferential trade agreement which weighed almost 3.1m tons.

Latifi further said Russia has been the major export destination for Iran among the EAEU Economic Union states with 53 percent, and Armenia with 23 percent and Kazakhstan with 16 percent are the other major destinations while Iran has had the lowest export to Kyrgyzstan with 1.5 percent of its exports to the union.

He added that Iran had its most imports from Russia with 78.5 percent of its total imports while Kazakhstan with 18 percent, Belarus with 2 percent were the other major exporters to Iran and Armenia, and Kyrgyzstan with less than one percent had the lowest share in exports to Iran.

On the items which were imported from the union states, he said most of the imported goods from those states have been basic goods, adding that barely has been the major imported item from the union and wheat, corn, oil seeds and red meat have been the other imports.

On the export items, Latifi said pistachio, kiwi and dried grape have been the major exports of Iran to those states.

## Over 2.8m Tons of Commodities Traded on IME

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

**TEHRAN - At the end of May 2020, different trading floors of the Iran Mercantile Exchange witnessed trading of more than 2m and 877 thousand tons of commodities worth over \$3,590m.**

According to the report by the IME's International Affairs and PR, the oil and petrochemical trading floor of the IME played host to trading of 1,799,280 MT of commodities worth more than \$1,508m last week.

On this trading floor, more than 444,460 MT of bitumen, 314,770 MT of polymer products and 140,216 MT of chemical products, 563,000 MT of VB feed stock, 149,500 MT of lube cut oil, 157,195 MT of sulfur, 6,888 MT of insulation, 9,000 MT of slaps waxes as well as 14,051 MT of oil were traded by customers.

The metal and mineral trading floor witnessed trading over 1,076,150 MT of commodities worth more than \$2,077m.

On this trading floor 981,418 MT of steel, 23,820 MT of copper, 750 MT of molybdenum concentrates, 72 MT of precious metals concentrates, 40,780 MT of zinc, 29,310 MT of aluminum, as well as 14 kg of gold bullion were traded by customers.

The side market of the IME experienced trading of 104 MT of PDA TAR, a total of 900 empty barrels, 1,664 MT of tomato paste and 78 MT of used locomotive engine oil.



## Iran Plans to Produce 10 Tons of Gold Annually

**TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran is expected to produce 10 tons of gold annually in the context of executive plan to take effect by the end of the current Iranian year (March 2021), an output target planning report by Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation (IMIDRO) said on Monday.**

The report said that Iran has to reach this goal based on the country's sixth five-year Vision Plan, noting that 80% of this goal had been achieved by March 2019. It said that some 670,000 kg of gold ore were unearthed from Iranian mines in the Iranian year 1385 (March 2006-2007) which led to production of 1.43 tons of gold in that year.

After that year, Iran's production of gold was mostly increasing, the report said.

In the Iranian year of 1392 (March 2013-2014), some 663,000 kg of gold ore were excavated from Iranian mines, producing some 4.19 tons of gold, the report added. IMIDRO predicts the total reserves of Iranian gold mines to be 300 tons.

SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT



PERMIT NO : 1399.1015

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY - AHVAZ-IRAN

**TENDER NO.: 31-32-88308-44-016**

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY (NISOC) INTENDS TO PURCHASE THE FOLLOWING GOODS:

ITEMS	MATERIAL DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY
03	PLUNGER PUMP WITH ELECTROMOTOR ACC. TO STANDARD NO. API 674 CAPACITY (Kg/hr): 4400 & 2200	10 + 10 ST SPARE PARTS

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## MSC Boosts Quality of Products, Customers' Satisfaction

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

**ISFAHAN – Head of Quality Control of Hot Rolling Mill of Mobarakeh Steel Company announced the launch of the inspection desk in the plant's light splitting line No.2.**

Mr. Masoud Mehdi Najafabadi said that the desk gives this opportunity for the company to inspect carefully and better the quality of its products and it will lead to more satisfaction of its customers about the quality of produced sheets, and it also gives this possibility for the plant to accept more orders for products with high quality and sensibility in the production line.

He added that in the hot rolling production line and with automatic surface inspection equipment (Parsi Tak), the surfaces of the produced sheets and products are fully checked in order to find the defects and to avoid producing defected products.

Mehdi Najafnejad noted that this equipment is comprised of cameras (12 cameras with maximum resolution between 485 to 756 pixels with speed of 30 to 360 frames per second), projectors, system for inspecting the surface, terminals, server for the data for the quality of surface, network, software of processor (identifying the defect and classifying it) and monitoring system. He added that the equipment is placed at the end of the cooling system of the sheet and before the coiler in the hot rolling line.

He reiterated that this equipment will boost the quality of the surface of production and will lead to the satisfaction of customers who were mostly unhappy with the defects on the surface of the sheet.

## Militants Target Burkina Faso Market

GORGADJI (Dispatches) - Militants in Burkina Faso attacked a cattle market and a humanitarian convoy, killing at least 35 people, the government said on Sunday.

The latest violence underscores deep instability in parts of Burkina Faso, which has been battling armed groups with links to al Qaeda and Islamic State since 2017.

Twenty-five people were killed and more wounded in the attack on the market in the eastern village of Kompinga, while five civilians and five military police were killed near the northern village of Foubé, the government said in a statement.



## Moscow Eases Lockdown Despite High Virus Caseload

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Shopping malls and parks are set to reopen in Moscow on Monday as the Russian capital eases coronavirus restrictions despite having the world's third-largest caseload.

The relaxation of the confinement orders in Moscow, the epicentre of Russia's outbreak with a population of more than 12 million, comes after President Vladimir Putin announced the epidemic had passed its peak in the country.

Under lockdown since March 30, residents of Europe's most populous city were until now only allowed to leave their homes for brief trips to shop, walk dogs or travel to essential jobs with a permit.



## Clashes Outside White House As U.S. Cities Under Curfew



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Police fired tear gas outside the White House late Sunday as major U.S. cities were put under curfew to suppress rioting as anti-racism protesters again took to the streets to voice fury at police brutality.

With the Trump administration branding instigators of six nights of rioting as domestic terrorists, there were more confrontations between protestors and police and fresh outbreaks of looting. Violent clashes erupted repeatedly in a small park next to the White House, with authorities using tear gas, pepper spray and flash bang grenades to disperse crowds who lit several large fires and damaged property.

Local U.S. leaders appealed to citizens to give constructive outlet to their rage over the death of an unarmed black man in Minneapolis, while night-time curfews were imposed in cities including Washington, Los Angeles and Houston.

One closely watched protest was outside the state capitol in Minneapolis' twin city of St. Paul, where several thousand people gathered before marching down a highway. "We have black sons, black brothers, black friends, we don't want them to die. We are tired of this happening, this generation is not having it, we are tired of oppression," said Muna Abdi, a 31-year-old black woman who joined the protest.

"I want to make sure he stays alive," she added in reference to her son, aged three.

Hundreds of police and National Guard troops were deployed ahead of the protest.

At one point, some of the protestors who had reached a bridge were forced to scramble for cover when a truck drove at speed after having apparently breached a barricade. The driver was later taken to hospital after the protestors hauled him from the vehicle, although there were no immediate reports of other casualties.

There were other large-scale protests in cities including New York and Miami.

Washington's mayor ordered a curfew from 11:00 pm until 6:00 am, as a report in the New York Times said that President Donald Trump had been rushed by Secret Service agents into an underground bunker at the White House on Friday night during an earlier protest.

Large-scale violence has rocked many U.S. cities in recent days, and looters ransacked stores in a neighborhood of Philadelphia on Sunday. In the Los Angeles suburb of Santa Monica, looting was reported at stores in a popular beachside shopping center. Officials in LA -- a city scarred by the 1992 riots over the police beating of Rodney King, an African-American man -- imposed a curfew from 4:00 pm Sunday until dawn. "Please, use your discretion and go early, go home, stay home and help us make sure that those who want to change this conversation from being about racial justice to be about burning things and looting things, don't win the day," the city's mayor Eric Garcetti said on CNN.

The shocking videotaped death last Monday of an unarmed black man, George Floyd, at the hands of police in Minneapolis ignited the nationwide wave of outrage over law enforcement's repeated use of lethal force against unarmed African Americans.

Floyd stopped breathing after Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes. Chauvin has been charged with third-degree murder and is due to make his first appearance in court on Monday. Three other officers with him have been fired but for now face no charges.

Governor Tim Walz has mobilized all of Minnesota's National Guard troops -- the state guard's biggest mobilization ever -- to help restore order.

Police fired tear gas and stun grenades to clear streets of curfew violators Saturday night in Minneapolis.

Walz extended a curfew for a third night Sunday and praised police and guardsmen for holding down violence. "They did so in a professional manner. They did so without a single loss of life and minimal property damage," he said. "Congratulations to our National Guard for the great job they did immediately upon arriving in Minneapolis, Minnesota, last night," President Donald Trump tweeted, adding that they "should be used in other States before it is too late!"

The Department of Defense said that around 5,000 National Guard troops had been mobilized in 15 states as well as the capital Washington, with another 2,000 on standby. The widespread resort to uniformed National Guards units is rare, and it evoked disturbing memories of the rioting in US cities in 1967 and 1968 in a turbulent time of protest over racial and economic disparities.

## India Expels Pakistan Embassy Officials for Alleged Spying

NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - Two officials at Pakistan's High Commission in New Delhi were being expelled for "espionage activities", India's foreign ministry said late Sunday, allegations its nuclear-armed rival called "baseless".

Tensions are already heightened between the neighboring foes over the Himalayan region of Kashmir, which was split between them in 1947 when they gained independence from Britain.

"The government has declared both these officials persona non grata for indulging in activities incompatible with their status as members of a diplomatic mission," the ministry said in a statement.

The pair had to leave the country "within 24 hours" and Pakistan's charge d'affaires was issued with a "strong protest" over their alleged activities, the ministry said.

Pakistan's foreign ministry said it "strongly rejects the baseless Indian allegations" and called Delhi's action a "clear violation of the Vienna Convention... especially in an already vitiated atmosphere".

Kashmir has become a bigger source of tension in relations between the regional powers after New Delhi last August scrapped the Muslim-majority region's semi-autonomous status and imposed a curfew. In response, Islamabad at that time said it would recall its ambassador from Delhi and send back the Indian envoy.

Late Sunday, Pakistan summoned India's charge d'affaires to express its "condemnation" of the expulsion order. India and Pakistan have fought three wars against each other since independence, including two over Kashmir where they have rival claims.

There have also been numerous flare-ups between the two foes, including in February 2019 when they conducted tit-for-tat air strikes. Rebel groups in Indian-administered Kashmir have battled for decades for the region's independence or its merger with Pakistan, and enjoy broad popular support.

Since 1989 the fighting has left tens of thousands dead, mostly civilians. India has more than 500,000 troops stationed in Kashmir, where clashes are a common occurrence but last month extended into the regional capital Srinagar. Police said a key rebel leader was killed during the first shootout between Indian government forces and militants to hit the city's center in two years.

President Jair Bolsonaro, who opposes coronavirus lockdown measures imposed by Brazilian cities and states, rallied with his supporters Sunday, as Washington said it had sent two million doses of a controversial unproven COVID-19 drug.

Brazil is Latin America's hotspot for the deadly pandemic, with nearly 500,000 confirmed cases and a death toll of nearly 28,000, the world's fourth highest.

But Bolsonaro met a tightly packed throng of supporters outside the government palace in the capital Brasilia. The crowd chanted "myth! myth! myth!" -- echoing the president's dismissal of the virus pandemic.

Protected by bodyguards, he approached the crowd without touching them, although he did pick up two children and put them on his shoulders, and briefly mounted a police horse, to the crowd's delight.

Brazil's health crisis has merged with a political crisis, as the far-right president has openly clashed with local authorities that insist on lockdown measures. Pro-government rallies have intensified as Bolsonaro also faces a court-ordered investigation into abuse of power that could lead to his impeachment.

Bolsonaro, often described as the "Trump of the Tropics," got help from the real Donald Trump on Sunday in the form of two million doses of the antimalarial medicine hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) to fight COVID-19.

President Trump is an outspoken fan of HCQ, which has been used to treat malaria and some autoimmune disorders for decades. However there is currently no evidence showing that HCQ can be used either to treat or prevent the novel coronavirus -- and there are fears that it may worsen patient's outcomes.

Like Trump, Bolsonaro is an HCQ advocate and has even fired two health ministers who clashed with him over his desire to expand its use. The United States will also soon be sending 1,000 ventilators to Brazil, the White House added.

On the streets of Sao Paulo, Brazil's most populous city, Bolsonaro supporters fought with pro-democracy demonstrators. Some 500 demonstrators, mostly dressed in black and wearing facemasks, marched carrying banners that read "We are for Democracy" and "Against Fascism," facing off with a smaller group of pro-Bolsonaro activists.

The march was organized by football club fan groups, especially Corinthians -- which during the final years of Brazil's 1964-1985 military dictatorship period and led by superstar Socrates was active in the civil rights movement. Riot police failed to keep the rival groups apart, and fired tear gas in an attempt to break up the fracas.

## Russia Calls Trump's Reaction to SpaceX Launch "Hysteria"

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russia's space agency criticized U.S. President Donald Trump's "hysteria" about the first spaceflight of NASA astronauts from U.S. soil in nine years, but also said on Sunday it was pleased there was now another way to travel into space.

SpaceX, the private rocket company of billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk, launched two Americans into orbit on Saturday en route to the International Space Station (ISS), a landmark mission that ended Russia's monopoly on flights there.

Trump, who observed the launch, said the United States had regained its place as the world's leader in space, that U.S. astronauts would soon land on Mars, and that Washington would soon have "the greatest weapons ever imagined in history."

NASA had had to rely on Roscosmos, Russia's space agency, to get to the ISS since its final space shuttle flight in 2011, and Trump hailed what he said was the end of being at the mercy of foreign nations.

The U.S. success will potentially deprive Roscosmos,

which has suffered corruption scandals and a number of malfunctions, of the lucrative fees it charged to take U.S. astronauts to the ISS.

"The hysteria raised after the successful launch of the Crew Dragon spacecraft is hard to understand," Vladimir Ustimenko, spokesman for Roscosmos, wrote on Twitter after citing Trump's statement.

"What has happened should have happened long ago. Now it's not only the Russians flying to the ISS, but also the Americans. Well that's wonderful!"

SpaceX's capsule docked with the ISS on Sunday. Roscosmos head Dmitry Rogozin congratulated NASA chief Jim Bridenstine for the success.

"Bravo! I know how anxious you were for this major event to become a success," Rogozin wrote on Twitter. Rogozin said he had appreciated a barbed joke by Musk referencing his own 2014 barb that the United States should try using a trampoline to get to the ISS.

Musk told a post-launch news conference "the trampoline is working".



## Tropical Storm Amanda Leaves 9 Dead in El Salvador

SAN SALVADOR (AFP) - Tropical storm Amanda, the first named storm of the season in the Pacific, lashed El Salvador and Guatemala on Sunday, leaving nine people dead amid flooding and power outages.

El Salvador's President Nayib Bukele declared a state of emergency, announcing it on his Twitter account.

"We have nine dead," Salvadoran Interior Minister Mario Duran said, adding that the toll could rise.

He said 50 houses in the San Salvador metropolitan area were "lost."

Other officials said 200 houses across the Central American country have been inundated by flooding, and rescue teams were evacuating residents from low-lying areas along swollen rivers and creeks.

One woman was killed in a mudslide and another by the collapse of a wall in her home in San Salvador, the director of police Mauricio Arreaza said.

A 10-year-old boy also was reported killed in the collapse of his home in Ciudad Delgado on the northeastern outskirts of the Salvadoran capital, but officials said that death had not been confirmed yet.

In Guatemala, officials said roads had been blocked by at least five landslides and some flooding had been reported but no evacuations were underway.



**Shanon**  
(adviser)

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J, balcony  
fireplace  
Fully Furn

**Zaferanieh Villa (\$5000)**  
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5bdrs, S/p  
S, J, balcony  
green yard  
Fully Furn

**Parsian**

**(\$1500)**  
**Velenjak Apt**  
130sq.m, 2bdrs  
S/p, S, J, pkg  
yard, gym, F.F

**Farmanieh Apt (\$2500)**  
200sq.m, 3bdrs, S/pool  
balcony, pkg, & Fully Furn

**(\$10000)**  
**Kamranieh bldg**  
5storey, 20bdrs  
S/pool, S, J, pkgs  
Brand new, & F.F

**Sa`adat abad Apt (\$1600)**  
160sq.m, 3bdrs, balcony  
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## Georgia Expects Serious Economic Recession

TBILISI (Dispatches) - Georgia expects serious economic recession in 2020, Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development Natia Turnava told reporters. Georgia has all the resources to make 2021 the year of economic growth, Turnava added. 'A 16.6-percent decline in the economic growth was expected in April, as a result of our policy. We had a state of emergency in the country, economic activity was substantially limited, and we did this deliberately to protect the population from the spread of the pandemic,' the minister said.



## ASEAN Urged to Work Together to Re-Open Economy Post-Covid-19

KUALA LUMPUR (Dispatches) - Malaysia needs to find ways to reopen its tourism industry, albeit discerningly, following its success in controlling the spread of Covid-19.

A senior ASEAN diplomat, who declined to be named, said Malaysia's health and non-health measures, with the public's support and participation, had brought the number of cases down.

"But that comes with a price in terms of various degrees of the economic shutdown, with export and tourism taking a big hit.

"Now is the question of how, not if, to reopen the economy. Malaysia must open as its economy is fully integrated with external markets.

"Countries in the region must act fast and act together. A logical first step is to allow essential business travels, along with managed and selected tourist markets," he told The New Straits Times.

He said Malaysia and other ASEAN countries should capitalize on their high standard of healthcare and build confidence for businesses to get back into action.

"How we do this in the next 18 months will be crucial," he said in response to a call by Senior Minister (Security Cluster) Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob to enhance 'Ops Benteng'.

The operation was to stop illegal immigrants from countries struggling with Covid-19 from entering Malaysia.

As of May 29, Singapore's cumulative positive cases stand at 33,249, the highest in ASEAN, with Indonesia at 24,538, the Philippines at 15,588, and Malaysia at 7,629.

Meanwhile, International Civil Aviation Organization and International Maritime Organization consultant Dr Matthew Yap said that aviation and land checkpoints traditionally have strong border controls.

"Under Singapore's circuit breaker and Malaysia's Movement Control Order, it is incumbent on the Home Ministry to increase checks and audits at marinas and yacht clubs to minimize human smuggling or cargo trafficking.

"With a gradual easing of air travel restrictions from June 1, as announced by both Hong Kong and Singapore, health experts say there is an increased need for polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests and serology tests to reduce community-spread from imported cases."

A senior ASEAN diplomat who declined to be named said taking enhanced steps to prevent illegal movement of people across borders is the right way to go.

"I am sure every country wants to keep its territory and its people safe and healthy to prevent pandemics like these from destroying its economy."

Another ASEAN ambassador supported the move by Malaysia, as both countries are near each other.

"What (negative) thing happens in one country can rapidly affect the other, given the labor movement between countries." A defense and security expert commended Malaysia's initiatives as he views the pandemic akin to biological warfare.

"The Malaysian government should be lauded for its efforts thus far. But it should not let its guard down and allow Covid-19 to strike a second wave, via returning foreign migrant workers. "Strict enforcement has to be carried out to contain them and prevent Covid-19 from escalating."

An enforcement agency senior officer said illegal immigrants have long been associated with health issues. "The authorities must always keep their eyes and ears open in screening potential disease carriers."

## Britain to Launch Big Stimulus Package Before Summer

LONDON (Reuters) - Britain's government is planning to launch a big stimulus package before the summer with a focus on creating jobs and infrastructure projects to help drag the economy out of the coronavirus crisis, the Financial Times reported.

Finance minister Rishi Sunak declined on Friday to say whether he would bring forward his next budget statement, due in the autumn, to spell out how he will tackle Britain's surging debt.

But Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government was elected in December after promising to upgrade the country's creaking infrastructure and the FT said this would form a central part of its recovery program, along with the retraining of workers.

"We are trying to identify shovel-ready projects — we want to get a move on with this," it quoted one minister as saying.

Sunak said on Friday that employers hammered by the coronavirus shutdown would have to gradually start contributing to the government's hugely expensive wage subsidy scheme, but only from August.

The government has been paying since March 80% of the wages of workers who are temporarily laid off, and who now total 8.4 million, to limit a surge in unemployment.

While that has been warmly welcomed by unions and business groups there are still fears that many jobs will go in sectors which will struggle to reopen, such as hospitality, retail and aviation.



## Opposes Current EU Rescue, Wants Changes

ZURICH (Reuters) - Austria opposes Europe's current 750 billion euro plan to help economies recover from the coronavirus pandemic and wants to negotiate changes to the proposal, the country's finance minister said.

Under the plan, which must be approved by all bloc members, the EU's executive Commission would borrow from the market and then disburse two-thirds of the funds in grants and the rest in loans to cushion the unprecedented economic slump expected this year due to lockdowns.

Much of the money would go to hard-hit Italy and Spain.

Finance Minister Gernot Blumel told broadcaster ORF that Austria was ready to negotiate amendments to make the European Commission's package more acceptable, but said it would put too great a burden on Austrian taxpayers in its current form.

"Austria will not agree to this package," Blumel said in the radio interview. "Why? Because the burden that it puts on the Austrian taxpayer would be simply too big. That's why we need renewed talks, in which we're ready to participate."

Austria, one of a group of nations with the Netherlands, Sweden and Denmark known as the "frugal four", has previously called the package a starting point for talks. But Blumel's comments on Saturday suggested that without changes, his country would reject the blueprint.

The recovery fund comes in addition to the EU's long-term budget for 2021-27, which the Commission proposed to set at 1.1 trillion euros and needs unanimous backing of all EU states and the European Parliament.

"The commission's proposal, together with the European budget and the reconstruction fund, would mean that Austria would have to contribute nearly 2% of its GDP," Blumel said. "That would be twice as much as in the past. For us, that's unacceptable."

## German Economic Stimulus Plan Could Be Worth 75 Billion-80 Billion



FRANKFURT (Reuters) - Germany is working on a stimulus package worth 75 billion-80 billion euros (67.26 billion pounds-72.12 billion pounds) to support economic recovery after the coronavirus pandemic, weekly Bild am Sonntag reported.

Chancellor Angela Merkel's coalition would stump up more than 60 billion euros, while the country's regional states would shoulder the rest, the paper reported.

The government was not immediately available for comment.

Finance Minister Olaf Scholz from the co-governing Social Democrats (SPD) and Economy Minister Peter Altmaier from Merkel's Christian Democrats (CDU) are expected to present the stimulus program next week.

The scheme could include tax cuts, cash handouts to families, additional funds for small companies, debt relief for municipalities and subsidies for the car industry, according to proposals from various policy makers.

Europe's largest economy is expected to plunge into its steepest recession since World War Two. The new fiscal stimulus package comes on top of a 750 billion-euro rescue package agreed in March.

Wolfgang Schaeuble, president of the German parliament, on Sunday called for the stimulus plan to focus on climate policy, digitization and innovation. "It is crucial not just to announce large sums of money, but to do the right thing", he told Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung (FAS).

"Some people think that climate policy must now take a back seat. But that cannot be seriously advocated," he said, adding that cash incentives for new cars would be "unimaginative".

He echoed comments from some industry groups which have spoken out against bonuses for new cars, after France introduced such a scheme.

The president of the VDMA association of German engineering firms, Carl Martin Welcker, told FAS: "Purchase premiums for cars and comparable individual subsidies discriminate against other products and generate windfall profits."

## IMF Approves \$732m for Bangladesh

DHAKA (Dispatches) - The optics look perfect. The global lender of last resort coming to the rescue of a not-too-well-endowed country struggling with the economic impact of the pandemic with no strings attached.

A couple of weeks back, Bangladesh requested for emergency funding to tackle the economic impact of the global coronavirus pandemic and the International Monetary Fund responded to that call just as swiftly, sanctioning \$732 million for the country -- without any conditions.

It is the last part that seems rather surprising as it is the idea of "conditionality" that underpins almost all of the IMF's lending relationships with member states.

Whenever it lends, it insists that the borrowing government tighten its belt and exercise restraint in public spending.

This helps to achieve three objectives. One is to stabilise the public debt burden, to ensure that the resources made available are not wasted. The second is to limit the whole economy's need for foreign exchange, a shortage of which had prompted the country to seek the IMF's help in the first place.

And the third is to ensure that the IMF can get repaid. Since it does not take any physical collateral from countries to whom it is lending, the belt-tightening helps to act as a kind of collateral.

So the fact that the latest funding from the Washington-based multilateral lender comes without strings, as the official statement says, seems a rather uncharacteristic move.

But if one reads in between the lines, the assistance is not all it is cracked up to be. The crisis lender says it will closely monitor how the country fares in promoting strong and inclusive growth while preserving macroeconomic stability once the public health crisis abates.

Key policy challenges for the country include tax revenue mobilisation, addressing the mounting default loans in the banking sector, and improving infrastructure and governance to enhance the business environment and attract foreign direct investment, the IMF said.

In other words, the lender is letting the country be off-leash -- for now.

But once normal order returns in the world, the country would be put back on the leash for the Tk 6,222 crore that is coming with next to no interest rates.

Bangladesh would get about \$244 million under the Rapid Credit Facility, meaning there would be zero interest rate, and another \$488 million under the Rapid Financing Instrument that has less than 1 per cent interest.

The repayment period would be 15 years with a grace period of five years, said a finance ministry official.

## Emirates Airline to Cut "a Few" Jobs Over Virus

DUBAI (AFP) - Emirates Airline said Sunday it will cut "a few" jobs in the face of the downturn over the coronavirus crisis, but did not specify the extent of the layoffs.

"We reviewed all possible scenarios in order to sustain our business operations, but we have come to the conclusion that we unfortunately have to say goodbye to a few of the wonderful people that worked with us," the airline said in a statement.

The Dubai carrier, the largest in the Middle East, employs a workforce that is around 100,000-strong with a fleet of 270 wide-bodied aircraft.

Emirates announced in March temporary cuts of between 25 percent and 50 percent in basic salaries for most employees after halting its operations.

"We continuously are reassessing the situation and will have to adapt to this transitional period," the airline said.

"We do not view this lightly, and the company is doing everything possible to protect jobs wherever we can."

Emirates said on May 10 that it would take at least 18 months for travel demand to return to "a semblance of normality", even after reporting bumper pre-pandemic profits.

The carrier had suspended flights on March 22 before resuming some services two weeks later. Last week, it began partial regular service to a number of mostly Western airports.

State-owned Kuwait Airways recently said it was laying off 1,500 expatriate employees, who make up a quarter of foreign staff.

## Imam Khomeini Demise Anniversary To Be Marked Online Abroad

TEHRAN (IQNA) – Iranian cultural centers in other countries will hold special programs online to mark the 31st anniversary of Imam Khomeini's (RA) demise, an official said.

Abuzar Ebrahimi Torkaman, head of the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization, said that the programs include webinars and forums, book reading contests, photo exhibitions and TV programs.

They will be organized online due to the coronavirus outbreak, he noted.



## Indonesia Imposes New Health Protocols on Tourism Destinations

JAKARTA (Dispatches) - Indonesian Tourism and Creative Economy Ministry has prepared health protocols called the program of cleanliness, health and safety (CHS), that will be imposed on tourism destinations during a new normal scenario in a bid to protect tourists from COVID-19 infection and stop imported coronavirus cases.

New protocols will make tourism destinations comply with health criteria required under the new normal scenario implementation, the ministry's spokesman Ari Julianto said.

The stride came as the novel coronavirus pandemic has been open for the change of the global tourism trend to a paradigm which puts health, hygiene, safety and security on the top priority during traveling.

The CHS rules include spraying rooms with disinfectant, availability of hand washing facilities, body temperature checks and using face masks, according to him.

Meanwhile, Indonesian President Joko Widodo on Thursday told a limited cabinet meeting that stakeholders in the tourism sector should be encouraged to respond to the change of the global tourism trend, make innovations and improvements, and adapt to the change of paradigm which is likely to appear in the global tourism trend.

"As the main issue is safety and health, the protocols of the new normal in the tourism sector must fully comply with it, starting from the tight protocols in transports, hotel facilities, restaurants and tourism destinations," he said.

"In comparison, I have seen other countries prepare this under a new normal in the tourism sector," he added.

To ensure that the protocols to be well implemented, the president ordered a massive socialization of the plan followed by simulations under supervision in the fields.

"Because the risk is high, once an imported case occurs along with its health impacts, the image of poor tourism would be created so that it would be difficult to restore it," he said.

Several areas are ready with a new normal scenario after the planned termination of partial lockdowns in some provinces on June 5, Chief Economic Minister Airlangga Hartarto said.



The Indonesian tourism sector has been dashed by the virus pandemic which has also been ravaging airlines, hotels and other tourism facilities as the partial lockdowns cast millions of travelers cooped up for weeks leading to layoffs.

This year, the number of foreign travelers visiting Indonesia was expected to tumble by 13 percent from that of last year when the figure was recorded at 16.11 million, according to the Tourism and Creative Economy Ministry.

## Indian Economy On Course for Full-Year Contraction



NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - The Indian economy is on course for a full-year contraction this fiscal, as recovery prospects from COVID-19 related disruptions remain "clouded", according to DBS Bank India economist Radhika Rao.

The comments came amid the release of key data that showed India's GDP growth tumbling to 3.1 per cent in the March quarter -- the slowest pace since the global financial crisis more than a decade back.

In 2019-20, the Indian economy grew by 4.2 per cent, the slowest in 11 years.

Commenting on the GDP data, Rao said, "Headline growth was firmer than consensus, but was constrained by data collection issues, including unavailability of earnings for many sectors. This keeps the door open for downward revision to this growth rate". Advertisement

Stating that the 2Q20 (April-June) will provide a clearer picture of the economic slump during the lockdown, Rao said, adding "recovery prospects in FY21 remain clouded and the economy is on course for a full-year contraction this year".

According to DBS, consumer discretionary sectors, production and services are likely to take longer to recover. "Drivers of agricultural output will be watched closely as much hope rests on the sector to provide a counterbalancing effect, especially monsoon strength, as kharif sowing will get underway," DBS said in a research note.

Meanwhile, the government on Saturday said a phased exit would begin on June 1 from the over-two-months-long nationwide lockdown.

Announcing the new guidelines, the Union Home Ministry said a complete lockdown would continue till June 30 in areas identified as COVID-19 containment zones across the country, but restrictions would be lifted in a phased manner at other places after the ongoing fourth phase, ending this Sunday. "As the country goes to a post-pandemic situation, among all the priorities we have, health recovery will be very important. Risks of a second wave should be monitored closely, as regional experience attests, which can potentially not only extend movement restrictions but also carry significant economic impact. Advertisement

"It is encouraging that states can have a bigger say in this regard, as subject to local conditions, part of the community can be opened up whilst few of the metros where the count continues to rise, higher vigilance can be maintained," Rao said.

The Health Ministry said all precautions must be taken while "living with the new normal" of COVID-19, as it stressed on strict adherence to physical distancing and use of face covers at public places by everyone while also following personal and social hygiene standards.

## Walls Close in on Thailand's Poorest as Virus Shrivels Economy

BANGKOK (AFP) - Shuffling around their tiny slum home which is too small to stand up in, Thanapat Noidee and his wife Papassorn share donated noodles with their sons and worry about bills, as the coronavirus pushes Thailand's poor deeper into penury.

The wood and breeze-block hut which is their home stands in the heart of a Bangkok commercial district festooned with five-star hotels and upmarket restaurants.

They share the small space in the shadow of the nearby high-rise developments with their children Woraphat and Kittipat, aged six and seven respectively.

Under the 1.2-metre-high (four feet) ceiling, the adults have to kneel to move around the single room which is the bedroom, living room and dining area.

Downstairs, a tap provides a shower and a flat concrete surface serves as a kitchen area, a space shared with rats which clamber over their washed dishes.

Papassorn lost her job as a messenger as Thailand locked down to control the coronavirus in late March.

"I have to borrow money for the electricity from my father and grandfather," she says.

"The school term opens again soon (July 1) and I have to find money for those expenses as well."

Thailand's parliament is due Sunday to vote on whether to approve a near-\$60 billion stimulus to revive an economy battered by the pandemic. If agreed, it will be the biggest state cash injection in Thai history.

Thailand has long paraded low unemployment as a symbol of its economic success. But millions like the Noidee family rely on informal work or day wages for survival, jobs imperilled by a feared 6-7 percent contraction in the economy.

Two months after the lockdown and with the outbreak under control, Bangkok is gradually creeping back to life.

But Papassorn's work has not returned while her husband has seen the roughly 1,000 baht (\$31) he earns each day as a motorcycle taxi driver more than halved because of a fall in customers.

## China Threatens...

FROM PAGE 1

China's rubber-stamp parliament on Thursday approved the plans for the law, which would punish secession, subversion of state power, terrorism and acts that endanger national security -- as well as allow Chinese security agencies to operate openly in Hong Kong.

The move followed seven months of huge and sometimes violent pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong last year.

It was condemned by pro-democracy activists and Western nations as another attempt to chip away at the city's freedoms.

Hong Kong police on Monday banned an upcoming vigil marking the Tiananmen crackdown anniversary citing the coronavirus pandemic, the first time the gathering has been halted in three decades.

The candlelight June 4 vigil usually attracts huge crowds and is the only place on Chinese soil where such a major commemoration of the anniversary is still allowed.



PERMIT NO : 1399.1057

## IRANIAN OFFSHORE OLI COMPANY (P.J.S) INTERNATION TO PUBLIC TENDER (PRE- QUALIFICATION) TENDER NO : 99/018/OT

Chartering of Low Draught ASD Vessel to Provide 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:** Chartering of Low Draught ASD Vessel to Provide 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 12,786,485,920 for Iranian Bidders of Euro 79,585,000 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

## Iran to Always...

FROM PAGE 1

"We must work to accelerate the implementation of agreements and projects between us, including the Khaf-Herat railway, as one of the most important economic projects between the two countries," said Iranian President, adding, "The bilateral relations between Iran and Afghanistan are on the path to progress."

"Completing and launching the Chabahar-Zahedan railway project in the coming year can create a positive transformation in the development of transportation of goods in the region," he noted.

Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani, for his part, wished good health and success to the government and people of Iran in fighting coronavirus, and praised the assistance and medical services provided to Afghan refugees in Iran.

Referring to the constructive role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the stability and security of the region, Ghani called on Iran to support the peace and dialogue process in Afghanistan.

He also referred to the developing relations between Iran and Afghanistan in various fields and expressed hope that with the efforts of the officials of the two countries, relations and cooperation between the two countries would develop.

## Any Hostile...

FROM PAGE 1

He also highlighted the failure of the "front of hegemony, Zionism, and the filthy regional reactionary" regimes to harm the Islamic Republic and the Revolution during three decades after passing away of Imam Khomeini, saying their full-blown media wars, cultural onslaught, economic threats and wars, military threats, and psychological warfare against Iran have all ended in failure.

The top commander then pointed to Iran's strategy of "active and progressive resistance, not stationary and passive resistance", saying such an approach has led to the formation of resistance groups in the Islamic world and the victory of resistance front in West Asia.

Major General Baqeri went on to say that the active resistance has defeated the Daesh (ISIL or ISIS) terrorist group and Takfiri terrorism, thwarted the evil plots of the "Greater Middle East" and the "Deal of the Century", and has turned the U.S. withdrawal from the region into a regional and international demand.

## Tehran Ready...

FROM PAGE 1

Referring to a South Korean medical cargo destined to Iran, he said, "We have held two long years of negotiations on this matter, however, the Koreans listen to the Americans, and they have been waiting to receive a green light from the U.S."

He noted that while Iran has had seven billion dollars of assets in South Korea, and they were obliged to return it in cash or goods upon Tehran's request, "the Koreans have shown negligence and procrastination" under the pretext of US sanctions.

Mousavi noted this while Tehran has repeatedly reminded the East Asian country that Iran is not under any international bans, and the U.S.' unilateral sanctions cannot be the basis for the actions of other countries, including South Korea.

The spokesman underlined that Tehran is seeking to repatriate all its assets from South Korea to remind Seoul that it should not let a third state hamper their longstanding, friendly relations.

"We are willing to retake all our assets from South Korea; this is a small but positive step, which comes with procrastination, to remind the Koreans that the long-standing ties between the two countries should not be marred by the interventions of a third country."

South Korea said last week that it would ship \$500,000 worth of medicine to Iran used to treat a hereditary disease.

The cargo is the first of such humanitarian exports to Iran since the United States imposed unilateral sanctions on Tehran in 2018.

Mousavi said that Iranian scientist imprisoned in the US will return to the country this week.

He further said that all the measures have been taken for the release of Iranian professor Sirous Asgari, and he will return home this week.

Dr. Asgari, a materials science and engineering professor was acquitted in November on federal charges of stealing trade secrets related to his academic work with a university in Ohio. Although the U.S. government lost its case on all charges, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (Ice) has kept him indefinitely detained since the trial. He spoke out in March about the unsanitary and "inhuman" conditions in detention.

## Mihambo to Work With Carl Lewis

BERLIN (AFP) - Reigning world long-jump champion Malaika Mihambo revealed Sunday that she plans to move to the USA to be trained by athletics legends Carl Lewis and Leroy Burrell. "I want to develop as an athlete and as a person," Mihambo told German daily Bild. "I have the feeling that now is the right time for such a big step. Carl Lewis and Leroy Burrell, who will be my sprint coach, were among the best in the world for years. I can learn a lot from them, that's irreplaceable."

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## Athletic Bilbao Coach Garitano Handed Contract Extension

BARCELONA (Reuters) - Athletic Bilbao manager Gaizka Garitano has renewed his contract until June 2021, the Spanish club said in a statement on Sunday. Garitano took charge of Athletic in December 2018 and steered them away from the relegation zone. He led them to the Copa del Rey final this season where they were due to play Real Sociedad, although the match was postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

# U.S. Open Plans In Works, Including Group Flights

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Charter flights to ferry U.S. Open tennis players and limited entourages from Europe, South America and the Middle East to New York. Negative COVID-19 tests before traveling. Centralized housing. Daily temperature checks. No spectators. Fewer on-court officials. No locker-room access on practice days. All are among the scenarios being considered for the 2020 U.S. Open -- if it is held at all amid the coronavirus pandemic -- and described to The Associated Press by a high-ranking official at the Grand Slam tournament. "All of this is still fluid," Stacey Allaster, the U.S. Tennis Association's chief executive for professional tennis, said in a telephone interview Saturday. "We have made no decisions at all." With that caveat, Allaster added that if the USTA board does decide to go forward with the Open, she expects it to be held at its usual site and in its usual spot on the calendar. The main draw is scheduled to start Aug. 31. "We continue to be, I would say, 150% focused on staging a safe environment for conducting a U.S. Open at the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York on our dates. It's all I wake up -- our team wakes up -- thinking about," Allaster said. "The idea of an alternative venue, an alternative date ... we've got a responsibility to explore it, but it doesn't have a lot of momentum."

## Competitive Sport In England Gets Green Light

LONDON (Reuters) - After a near three-month shutdown, elite competitive sport in England could resume as yesterday behind closed doors provided strict conditions are met, the government said on Saturday. The first major event is expected to be the 2000 Guineas horse race at Newmarket on June 6, although horse race meetings will be staged, without any spectators, starting on Monday at Newcastle and Tuesday at Kempton Park. Competitive sport was suspended in Britain in March in response to the coronavirus pandemic that has killed more than 38,000 people in the UK to date.

Guidelines published on Saturday by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), outlined a lengthy list of criteria that must be met to allow elite athletes and professional sportsmen to resume competition. "The wait is over. Live British sport will shortly be back on in safe and carefully controlled environments," Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden said in a statement.

"This guidance provides the safe framework for sports to resume competitions behind closed doors. It is now up to individual sports to confirm they can meet these protocols and decide when it's right for them to restart."

Dowden confirmed that preparations were being finalized for the Premier League and English Football League to return to action in June. Premier League shareholders this week agreed a return to contact training with a provisional restart date of June 17, provided safety requirements are in place.

"The Premier League welcomes the government's announcement today," an EPL statement said. "We have provisionally planned to restart the Premier League on June 17, but there is still much work to be done to ensure the safety of all involved."

An announcement should come from "mid-June to end of June," Allaster said.

All sanctioned competition has been suspended by the ATP, WTA and International Tennis Federation since March and is on hold until late July.

The French Open was postponed from May to September; Wimbledon was canceled for the first time since 1945.

There is no established COVID-19 protocol for tennis, a global sport with several governing bodies.

"Everybody would agree to the fundamental principles, I'm sure: protecting the health of participants, following the local laws and minimizing the risk of the transmission of the virus," said Stuart Miller, who is overseeing the ITF's return-to-tennis policy. "But then you have to get down into the specific details."

Meanwhile Karolina Pliskova has hit out at 'super weak' male players who oppose women receiving identical prize money.

The Czech player, ranked third in the WTA world rankings, will return to action in the newly-created LiveScore Cup in Prague next week.



While the ATP and WTA tours remain suspended, Pliskova has weighed on the possibility of both tours merging to form one alliance after calls from senior players such as Roger Federer.

There is currently equal pay at the four grand slams, but a big disparity during the rest of the year. And while the 27-year-old insists she does not crave equal pay, she is not happy about men who speak out against it.

Asked whether a possible merge between the two tours should bring equal pay, Pliskova told the PA news agency: "I don't think so and I am not the one who wants it."

"But I don't like the men who are complaining that we would get the same money. I think it is super weak from them that they complain we have the same money as them."

"The only time it is true is at grand slams. I understand they play longer, but they are men. They are stronger than us. I don't see the reason why we should compare each other."

"I don't need to have the same prize money as men. But to have the same chance to play on centre court or to have the same chance to be on TV, that should be possible with these changes."

## Icardi Signs Four-Year PSG Deal

MILAN (AFP) - Paris Saint-Germain have signed Argentina international Mauro Icardi from Inter Milan on a four-year deal after taking up the option to buy the on-loan forward, the two clubs announced on Sunday.

Icardi joined PSG this season and impressed with 20 goals in 31 games, before the Ligue 1 campaign was stopped and his club crowned champions because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"Paris Saint-Germain are delighted to announce the signing of Mauro Icardi on a permanent deal, following the striker's loan from Inter Milan during the 2019-2020 season," the French club said in a statement.

Icardi, who has eight caps for Argentina, but also holds an Italian passport, has signed a four-year deal until June 30, 2024.

Given the current economic situation the French champions succeeded in reducing the fee "to under" 60 million euros (\$66 million), as opposed to the 70 million euros initially requested, according to the French and Italian sports press.

This is the first major transfer in Europe since the crisis linked to the Covid-19 pandemic.

## Man City's Mahrez Has Watches Worth £300,000 Stolen



LONDON (AFP) - Manchester City winger Riyad Mahrez had three luxury watches worth more than £300,000 (\$370,000) stolen when thieves raided his penthouse apartment, according to British media reports on Sunday.

More than £50,000 in cash along with Cartier bracelets and rare football shirts worth up to £150,000 were also taken from the Algeria international.

The watches were reported to be a £230,000 Richard Mille timepiece, a £40,000 Rolex Daytona and a £35,000 Rolex Day Date. Mahrez, 29, was said to not have been at home when the offenders used a key fob to access his apartment and three others in the Manchester city center block on April 24. The Sun quoted a letter sent to residents which read: "Four apartments were accessed without authority using a fob which had general access throughout the building."

"The fob in question is now in our possession, has been fully deactivated and cannot be used again."

The robbery continued an alarming sequence of Premier League stars being targeted by thieves.

Earlier this month, Tottenham and England midfielder Dele Alli spoke of the "horrible experience" of being punched by armed raiders who stole watches and jewellery from his London home. Alli was ordered to hand over valuables to the raiders during the early hours attack as he played pool with his brother and his model girlfriend Ruby Mae.

The two knife-wielding masked intruders then fled from his home in leafy Hadley Wood.

## Winning Dhoni's Trust Key to Getting India Captaincy



NEW DELHI (Reuters) - India captain Virat Kohli believes he landed the job largely because his predecessor Mahendra Singh Dhoni was impressed with his reading of situations in matches.

Kohli, 31, replaced Dhoni as test captain in 2014-15 and took over the limited-overs reins in early 2017, becoming India's all-format leader as well the team's batting mainstay.

Fielding in the slips, Kohli had easy access to wicketkeeper Dhoni and he felt their chats in between deliveries earned him the trust of the former skipper.

"You start talking to the captain regularly," Kohli told team mate Ravichandran Ashwin in a chat on YouTube.

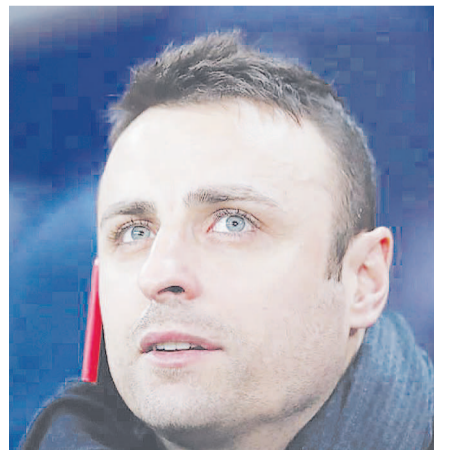
"I was always in MS's ear, standing next to him and saying 'We can do this, we can do that, what do you think?'"

"He would deny a lot of things but he would discuss a lot of things as well. I think he got a lot of confidence that I can do this after him."

"A large portion of me becoming captain was to do with him observing me for a long period of time. It just can't happen that he goes and the selectors say, 'Okay you become captain.'"

Leading the national team of a cricket-mad country is one of the toughest jobs in the game but Kohli is enjoying the responsibility.

## Bayern Favorites to Win Champions League



SOFIA (Reuters) - Dimitar Berbatov has backed Bayern Munich to lift the Champions League's trophy for a sixth time this season, saying the German club could have an advantage if the competition resumes after the COVID-19 stoppage due to the Bundesliga's earlier re-start.

"Looking at this year's Champions League, I am now leaning more towards Bayern Munich to win it, if it goes ahead," former Manchester United striker Berbatov told Betfair.

Bayern thrashed Chelsea 3-0 in their Champions League last 16, first-leg match in February but the return game was postponed due to the novel coronavirus pandemic. "Maybe because I'm watching a lot of Bundesliga, but they always impress with quality football and they have some great players," Berbatov said.

"The way they dismantled Chelsea in that last match was unbelievable, they did it with such ease."

The 39-year-old Bulgarian, his country's all-time leading scorer with 48 goals, also played for Tottenham Hotspur and Fulham in the English top flight as well as German club Bayer Leverkusen and AS Monaco in France.

"I'm not sure how the stoppage will affect everybody, but Bayern Munich may have a slight advantage because they are playing football now and they are getting their match sharpness back, I wouldn't be surprised if they are now the favorites." Bayern moved closer to a record-extending 30th German league title with a 5-0 drubbing of struggling Fortuna Duesseldorf on Saturday.