

**Head of Iran's Transmittable Disease Care Department of Health Ministry Says That People's Sensibility to Coronavirus Has Decreased to 30-40% While the Number Was 90%**

# IRAN NEWS

**Chairman of Bushehr Chamber of Commerce Said on Saturday that Iranian Safari Launches Can Resume Trip to United Arab Emirates Ports by Observing Health Protocols**

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**2 DOMESTIC**

**Qalibaf, Shamkhani Reject Deal With U.S.**

> SEE PAGE 2



**3 DOMESTIC**

**Australia, Iran Review Ways for Bilateral Educational Cooperation**

> SEE PAGE 3



**4 INTERNATIONAL**

**French Forces Kill Leader Of Al-Qaeda in Maghreb**

> SEE PAGE 4



**8 SPORTS**

**Tokyo to Skip One-Year Olympic Countdown Over Virus**

> SEE PAGE 8



## White Expelled Due To Human Rights Considerations

TEHRAN (MNA) – Director General of Counterintelligence of the Iranian Ministry of Intelligence said on Saturday that the U.S. citizen, Michael White, who had been imprisoned on security charges in Iran, has been deported to the U.S. due to disease exacerbation, human rights reasons.

The Iranian official explained that White was an American military person who had entered Iran two years ago under the cover of a tourist and has sought to stay in the country under the same title but was arrested by the Iranian intelligence forces.

Making remarks about the U.S. President's expression of gratitude for Iran because of the return of White to the U.S., the Iranian intelligence official said: "After his mismanagement and failure in coping with the coronavirus and also in controlling the recent anti-racism protests in the US, Trump is now in a dire need for having the support of the American public opinion, therefore he seeks to ignore fundamental disagreements between Tehran and Washington and seize every occasion as a proper ground for holding optimum mutual talks with Iran in favor of his country."

**See Page 7**

## IAEA Report Confirms Continuing of Verification Activities

**IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK**

TEHRAN - Iran's Permanent Representative to the International Organization in Vienna said that the IAEA's new report on JCPOA both reflects the IAEA's continued verification of Iran's activities and actions in suspending its obligations under the JCPOA commitments.

Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to International Organizations in Vienna Kazem Gharibabadi noted that the report covers new nuclear technical developments, including the surpassing of Iran's heavy water production from 130 tons and reaching 132.6 tons, and the use of new machines in Iran, including enrichment with IR machines, IR4, IR5, IR6, IRS, IRS6, and IR.2M in research and development lines.

Gharibabadi also referred to the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) verification activities in Iran by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

**See Page 7**

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## No Definite End to Pandemic; Health Protocols to Remain



**IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK**

TEHRAN - President Hassan Rouhani says the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic will remain for a long time, warning that people still need to follow health protocols.

"We do not know exactly when the end will come and the guidelines should be observed for a long period," Rouhani told a meeting of the National Headquarters for Managing and Fighting the coronavirus in Tehran on Saturday.

"People should know that the epidemic will take long and today we are not in possession of a definite and clear end to the epidemic," he added. "We may have a long period ahead until we can have access to an approved and available vaccine."

The president noted that the country has no choice but to open factories and shops while simultaneously countering the highly contagious virus.

He further advised Iranians to observe health and safety norms, respect social distancing rules, use masks at gatherings and avoid wedding ceremonies or funeral processions.

Like many other countries, Iran is grappling with the coronavirus that first showed up in China in late December 2019 before spreading across the globe.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Rouhani urged Iranians to use internet platforms for their daily social activities as much as possible during the coronavirus pandemic.

"The real space should be our second priority, our first priority should be the cyberspace," he said.

Rouhani also enumerated four main tasks of the government in the current critical juncture, the first of which is the provision of health care supplies.

"Fortunately, all we need today for the health and treatment sectors are produced inside the country with no shortages in this regard and scientific and research activities are properly pursued," he pointed out.

The second and third government tasks are providing people with basic goods and essential services including, water, electricity, gas and security, he added.

The fourth government responsibility is the provision of economic support packages, the president said. "These supports will continue as long as the coronavirus exists."

The Islamic Republic is fighting the coronavirus amid US sanctions which prevent the country from accessing necessary equipment and medicine. The US government has defied international calls to halt the coercive measures.

Meanwhile on Friday, President Rouhani, in a phone talk with Acting Industries Minister Hossein Modarres Khiaabani, called for making necessary plans for faster completion of semi-finished projects and make face masks available to the public to fight the novel coronavirus pandemic.

**See Page 7**

## Panama-Flagged LPG Carriers Investigated for Iran Shipments

LONDON (Dispatches) - The maritime authority of Panama is investigating a fleet of eight Panama-flagged liquefied petroleum gas carriers linked to sanctioned Iranian shipments to China and India, and engaged in shipping practices that the U.S. has labelled as "deceptive".

The authority's marine chief Rafael Cigarrausta said the vessels are being investigated, but he was not able to provide a more detailed response by the time of publication.

Previous investigations have resulted in deregistration because the owners could not satisfy the flag they were not involved in sanctions-busting activities.

All of the vessels may be sailing without liability insurance as they have not been entered with any P&I clubs since coverage stopped in the second half of 2019, according to the Lloyd's List Intelligence database.

A separate check showed all eight vessels were also not entered in any database operated by the International Group of P&I Clubs — the 13 clubs covering 90% of the world's international fleet.

One of the LPG carriers, The Weisse (IMO 8818843) was tracked via satellite imagery loading at Iran's Asaluyeh terminal on November 14, when its Automatic Identification Satellite transponder was turned off, according to information from US-based non-profit group C4ADS. Lloyd's List first wrote last June about a fleet of Chinese-owned LPG carriers shipping Iranian LPG to China via a series of ship-to-ship transfers off Malaysia, using the same logistics chain and shipping practices as sanctioned crude shipments.

Six of the eight LPG vessels were previously or currently linked to two beneficial Chinese owners.

These are either Kunlun or the Cosco tanker unit subsidiary, Cosco Shipping Tanker (Dalian) Seaman and Shipmanagement. Both units were sanctioned by the US for a five-month period over September through to January. The LPG carriers were reflagged to Panama from Liberia in late 2019, at the same time as P&I cover was withdrawn.

News that the LPG carriers are still switching off their AIS for periods of time in and around Iranian waters and conducting STS transfers is the first test for the Panama flag's tough new position on deceptive shipping practices.

## COVID-19 Recovered Exceed 132,000

**IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK**

TEHRAN - Head of Public Relations and Information Center of the Ministry of Health announced that so far, 169,425 people in the country have definitely been infected with the coronavirus, and 132,038 of total infected people have recovered.

Kianoush Jahanpour on Saturday said about the latest data on the coronavirus in the country and the deaths caused by the virus said: "According to the definitive laboratory findings and from yesterday to June 6 in the country, 2,269 new patients with COVID-19 were diagnosed in the country and the number of patients with this disease reached 169,425."

527 of new patients were hospitalized.

Fortunately, 132,038 patients have recovered and have been discharged so far, Jahanpour added.

The Spokesman said: "Unfortunately, in the past 24 hours, 75 COVID-19 patients have lost their lives, and 8,209 people have lost their lives in total."

He stated: "2,578 patients are in a critical condition."

So far, around 1,060,126 COVID-19 diagnosis tests have been conducted in the country," the Health Ministry Spokesman said. The official added that the situation in Khuzestan is still critical and that Hormozgan and Kermanshah provinces also are on alert.

In the past 24 hours, 15 provinces were without deaths and 6 provinces have had only one death due to COVID-19.

## Russian Envoy Slams Leak of IAEA Confidential Report on Iran

LONDON (IRNA) - Permanent Representative of Russia to International Organizations in Vienna Mikhail Ulyanov in a message on Saturday described leak of the IAEA's confidential report on Iran as outrageous.

"Today's #IAEA report on safeguards implementation in #Iran was published by western news agencies 5 minutes after its distribution among members of the Board of Governors," Ulyanov wrote in his Twitter account on Saturday.

"The regime of confidentiality in the Agency doesn't work at all," he added.

"The leak of #IAEA confidential report on #Iran is outrageous, but it may have one positive implication. It is clear from the content that the issue is of no immediate proliferation concern. Events (if any) took place 20 years ago. The problem lies in a different dimension," he said in a separate message.

"I am absolutely sure that the leaks of confidential #IAEA reports on #Iran isn't the fault of Secretariat of the Agency."

**See Page 7**

## Pandemic Didn't Halt Production in Iran

**IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK**

TEHRAN – Iran's Acting Industry, Mining and Trade Minister said the country's production was not halted by the coronavirus outbreak and despite the difficult situation the sector continued operating in compliance with health protocols.

"Big industrial units in Iran managed to protect their work environment and manpower from the virus in compliance with all health protocols, and in addition to timely supply of needs in the domestic market, did not stop exporting to target markets," Hossein Modares Khiaabani said.

At the beginning of the outbreak, Iran needed to import N95 masks to meet the needs of medical staff, but now, using great domestic potentials and careful planning on domestic production, not only all the country's needs have been met, exports are also underway, Khiaabani said on the sidelines of a visit to a dairy production unit in Tehran.

**See Page 7**



## “Sultan of Cars”, His Wife Sentenced to Death in Iran

TEHRAN (IFP) - Iran has given death penalties to a man and his wife who had hoarded more than 6,700 automobiles and disrupted the car market and are also convicted of money-laundering involving a sum of 32 trillion rials. Speaking at a press conference on Tuesday, Iran's Judiciary Spokesman Gholam Hossein Esmacili said the criminal case includes a mixture of crimes, such as disrupting the country's currency market and the automobile market. Vahid Behzadi and his wife, Najva Lasheidadee, have been condemned to

death on charges of major disruption to the country's monetary and currency system, currency smuggling through dummy purchase orders, disrupting the system of distribution of commodities by purchasing more than 6,700 cars in advance from Iranian carmaker Saipa, and money-laundering involving a sum of 32 trillion rials, Esmacili added.

The Judiciary spokesman noted that 24,700 gold coins and 100 kilograms of gold have been confiscated from the convicted woman's dwelling.

## Qalibaf, Shamkhani Reject Deal With U.S.

**TEHRAN (IFP) - Newly-elected Parliament Speaker has implicitly rejected any deal with the United States, saying that negotiation with infidels is not allowed in Islam.**

Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf quoted a verse from Holy Quran on his Twitter page implying that any compromise with infidels is disallowed.

“May you not fall short in the fight (against infidels) and be aware not to offer them a compromise. You are higher because God is with you and you can be sure that He will show you the result of your deeds (resistance),” reads his tweet, which is the translation of the verse he quoted.

Last week, the new parliament speaker in his first major speech at parliament had stressed any negotiation with the United States would be futile.

Meanwhile a top Iranian security official said prisoners swap with the United States has not been the result of negotiations and there will definitely be no talks with Washington in the future.



Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) said on Friday that US President Donald Trump has failed in many arenas and his team are making fake victories for him.

Ali Shamkhani wrote in a tweet that Trump's situation is so bad, both in the international arena and in the corona management as well as regarding racial profiling inside the United States that his team has no choice but to produce fake successes.

“The exchange of prisoners is not the result of negotiation, and no negotiation will take place in the future,” reads Shamkhani's tweet.

Earlier, Donald Trump stated in a tweet that the release of Michael White shows a deal is possible with Iran.

## President Calls Reopening of Tourism, Handicrafts Centers

*IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK*

TEHRAN – President Hassan Rouhani instructed the Minister of Cultural Heritage and Tourism to prepare necessary health instructions for reopening tourism, handicrafts centers with the cooperation of the Health Committee of the National Task Force for Fighting Coronavirus.

Speaking with Minister of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Ali-Asghar Mounesan on Friday, President Hassan Rouhani referred to the importance of the tourism industry in the country's economy and its significant contribution to the life cycle of ethnic groups, including rural areas, and instructed Mounesan to prepare necessary health instructions for reopening tourism, handicrafts centers with the cooperation of the Health Committee of the National Task Force for Fighting Coronavirus, so that the groundwork for the active role of tourism businesses can be laid for the realization of the slogan of Surge in Production.

Rouhani received a report on travel in recent days and stressed: “With regard to the successful return of many of economic sectors to their activity cycle in compliance with health protocols, officials and managers of the tourism industry must work with the health committee of the National Task Force for Fighting Coronavirus to design the necessary health protocols and implement them accurately and effectively so that people can travel and observe health protocols at the same time.”

The President also referred to the importance of handicrafts as an important area of economic activity in the lives of people, especially villagers, as well as one of the most important elements of cultural identity, which has a significant impact on the economic cycle of people's lives, saying: “With regard to the domestic market and the export share of handicrafts, we must provide the ground for effective role of businesses in this field with careful planning along with other industries in achieving surge in production with the participation of the people.”

## Rezaei Warns of Poisonous Negotiation With U.S.

TEHRAN (MNA) – Secretary of Expediency Council Mohsen Rezaei reacted to a tweet by US President Donald Trump who had called for negotiations with Tehran.

“Trump has said that now it's time to come and negotiate with him. Negotiation with you is a poison even after you come out of this self-made quagmire,” Rezaei tweeted on Friday night.

“Right now you are stuck in a quagmire,” he added.

The tweet came in response to a tweet by Trump after the release of Michael White. “So great to have Michael home. Just arrived. Very exciting. Thank you to Iran. Don't wait until after U.S. Election to make the Big deal. I'm going to win. You'll make a better deal now!”

Meanwhile, Iranian authorities have dismissed claims by the United States administration that a recent prisoner swap between Washington and Tehran was the outcome of successful negotiations between the two sides.

## Switzerland Welcomes Iran, U.S. Humanitarian Gesture by Releasing Prisoners

TEHRAN (MNA) – Switzerland has welcomed the recent move by Tehran and Washington to release and repatriate American and Iranian nationals.

“Switzerland welcomes the humanitarian gesture of Iran and the United States. Switzerland remains ready to support and to facilitate more confidence building measures between the two countries as part of its good

offices,” the Swiss foreign ministry announced.

Tehran announced on Friday the release of a U.S. citizen, Michael White, who had been imprisoned on security charges in Iran. Foreign Ministry Spokesman Abbas Mousavi said Mr. White was released on Thursday night with Islamic kindness and based human rights considerations and left Tehran to join his family soon.

Mousavi noted that since White had no one in Iran, he was handed over to the US interests section in the country, i.e. the Embassy of Switzerland.

Mousavi also said, “Simultaneous with White's release, Majid Taheri, an Iranian scientist who was imprisoned in the United States for false reasons, was released too.”

## Tehran Urges Paris to Stop Interfering in Dual National's Case

TEHRAN (IFP) - Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesman has called on the French government to stop meddling in the Islamic Republic's internal affairs saying that judicial issues are pursued independently in Iran.

Seyed Abbas Mousavi said on Friday as it has been repeatedly stated the French officials must be aware that the judicial processes in Iran are followed up independently.

Accordingly, he added, the case of Iranian citizen Fariba Adelkhah has been subject to an independent and fair judicial process.

“She has been convicted with regards to the crime she has committed, and is serving her sentence,” he noted.

“Political pressures and propaganda campaigns cannot disrupt the carrying out of the sentence. We hope that the French authorities will pay attention to this,” added Mousavi.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian asked Iran to release Fariba Adelkhah who is serving her six-year sentence on national security charges.

“This ongoing situation can only have a negative impact on the bilateral relations between France and Iran, and can only significantly reduce the trust between our two countries,” he added.

## CF Patients Victims of U.S. Sanctions Against Iran

TEHRAN (IRNA)- An Iranian health ministry official says the U.S. sanctions have resulted in a shortage of a foreign-made medicine used for cystic fibrosis patients.

Mahdi Shadnough, the head of the Health Ministry's management center for transplantation and special diseases, said that the families of some CF patients complain about the lack of foreign brands of this medicine. He said the domestic brands of this drug are available and are given to these patients free of charge, but the import of the foreign ones is not possible under U.S. sanctions.

“In general, the import of foreign drugs is difficult and Pancreatin is no exception, but according to Iran's Food and Drug Administration, the import of this medicine is on the agenda and we hope this drug will be available in the near future,” he added.

Shadnough further noted that the Iran-made brand of this drug is available to CF patients. However, as the families of these patients are requesting the use of foreign drugs, we are pursuing its import; however, due to sanctions and the problem of currency transfer, it has not been possible to import it yet, he went on to say.

According to this Iranian health official there are 1,100 CF patients in Iran.

## Border Crossing Between Iran, Iraqi Kurdistan Reopens

TEHRAN (IFP) - A border crossing between Iran and the Iraqi Kurdistan Region has reopened and the trade exchanges via land border have resumed in the normal way, officials say.

Following consultations between Iranian and Iraqi officials on the health protocols to contain the spread of COVID-19, the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) has reopened Bashmagh border crossing between Iran's Mariwan and Iraq's Sulaymaniyah.

The KRG had decided to close the border after a rise in the number of coronavirus patients in Penjwin district in Sulaymaniyah.

Bashmagh is a major border crossing in western Iran for land freight and travels to the Iraqi Kurdistan region.

There are two crossings between Sulaymaniyah and Iran: Parviz-Khan and Bashmagh.

Many border crossings between Iran and the neighboring states have reopened in recent weeks in compliance with the health protocols after a closure in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak.

## Iranians Know Very Well Chief of Well-Dressed Terrorists in White House

TEHRAN (MNA) – In reaction to U.S. President Trump's tweet, Iranian Parliament Speaker's Special Aide for International Affairs Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said that Iranians know very well the chief of well-dressed terrorists in the White House.

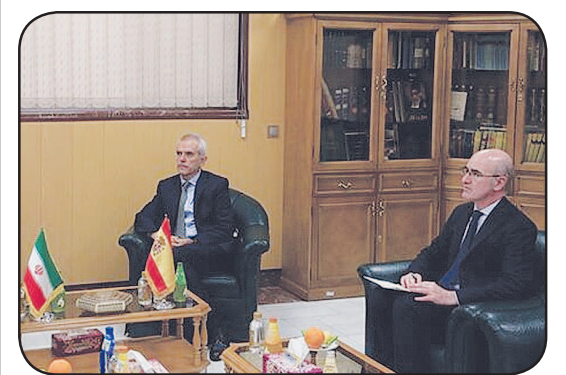
“Trump cannot sign a terrorist order w/ one hand to assassinate the global champion of counter-terrorism, i.e. Major General #Soleimani, and ask w/ the other hand to negotiate w/ #Iran,” Amir-Abdollahian wrote in a Saturday tweet in reaction to U.S. President Trump's tweet.

“The civilized Iranians know very well the chief of well-dressed terrorists in the @WhiteHouse,” he added.

The tweet came in response to a tweet by Trump after the release of Michael White.

“So great to have Michael home. Just arrived. Very exciting. Thank you to Iran. Don't wait until after US Election to make the Big deal. I'm going to win. You'll make a better deal now!”

## Iran, Spain Stress Police Diplomacy



TEHRAN (IP) - Iran's International Police Chief and Spain's Ambassador to Iran stressed the expansion of police diplomacy between the two countries to expedite missions.

: In a meeting with Lopez Busquets, Head of the Iranian Police's International Department Brigadier General Hadi Shirzad said the Police of the Islamic Republic of Iran has always emphasized speeding up the expectations and demands of compatriots abroad, especially the especially those living in the member states of Interpol.

General Shirzad also proposed practices to enhance interactions between Iran and Spain's Police and emphasized how to use the powers and capacities of the Spanish Embassy in Iran and also the development of relations between Iranian and Spanish Police diplomacy to accelerate police missions.

The Spanish Envoy Lopez Busquet, for his part, gratified the meeting and announced readiness to foster opportunities in order to achieve the very objectives.

## Iran's Historical Cities Suffer From Lack of Foreign Tourists

TEHRAN (ILNA) - The interest to visit tourist destinations in Iran's Isfahan, Shiraz, and Yazd has reduced, told the Director-General of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Organization branch in Yazd Province Mostafa Fatemi.

The Iranian official said “During spring, only 20 foreigners and 300 local tourists visited the city of Yazd, and currently the number of foreign tourists in this city is zero.”

“A total of 2.3 million local and 460,000 foreign tourists have visited Yazd in spring of 2018, while the number has dropped due to COVID-19, to 300 domestic and 20 foreign tourists during spring of the current Iranian year (began March 20, 2020),” he added.

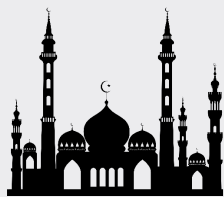
“Although those hotels have resumed working, only 10 percent of their establishments are taken. For example, a 100-room hotel only has 5 rooms taken, so they're suffering losses,” said the official.

He went on to add that around 400 houses and accommodation centers were identified as ‘illegal’ during the coronavirus spread, due to ignoring health protocols.

“Some 200 of them were closed, and there were concerns over tours without permits,” said Fatemi.

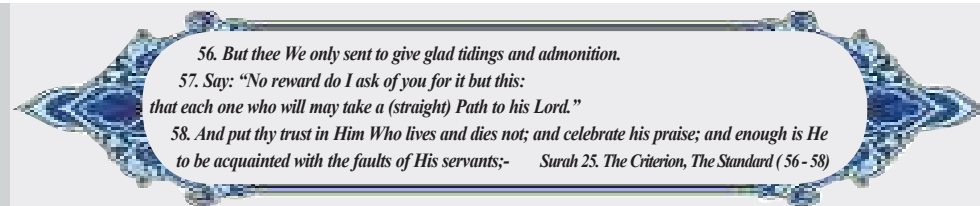
He confirmed that the economy of Yazd, Isfahan, and Shiraz depends on foreign tourists, adding “The guild of gold and jewelry producers was another sector that was damaged in Yazd, due to drop of tourism.”





## PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	13:03
■ Evening (Maghreb)	20:39
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:02
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	05:48



## Australia, Iran Review Ways for Bilateral Educational Cooperation

**IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK**

**TEHRAN – Australia's deputy chief of mission to Tehran met head of international affairs and human resources of Tehran Chamber of Commerce and reviewed ways for boosting bilateral educational cooperation.**

During the meeting, deputy head of Tehran Chamber of Commerce Hessam Hallaj briefed Australian diplomat of the duties of the chamber and pointed to the economic relation between Iran and Australia, adding that the trade volume between both states is currently less than \$500m which is below the expectation despite high trade capacities of both states.

He then pointed to education as one of the grounds for bilateral cooperation, noting that Australia is a leading country in agro, environmental and water sectors and urged Australian Embassy to involve Australian experts in the specialized meeting with Tehran Chamber of Commerce in order that Iranians take advantage of Australia's knowhow in those fields.

Meanwhile Axel Wabenhorst, for his part, welcomed the talks for boosting bilateral trade, adding that the major trade cooperation between Iran and Australia is in the agro sector and its related industries, noting that sanctions have led to a decline in bilateral relations.



He then briefed Mr. Hallaj of Australian embassy's performance in issuing different visas for Iranians.

He noted that after Iran's government cut the official forex rate for the imports of meat and restrictions from Iran's veterinary organization for imports, there has been a drop in exports of Australia's meat to Iran.

Wabenhorst added that both countries have recently signed a health protocol which will ease exports of Australian meat to Iran to some extent.

During the meeting, both sides discussed ways for educational cooperation and each side highlighted the potential of his country in the education field.

It was also decided soon the new Australian Ambassador to Tehran and president of Tehran Chamber of Commerce to meet and discuss ways of boosting co-operations.

## Iranian Trucks With Goods Enter Turkey



**IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK**

TEHRAN - Some 150 Iranian trucks have entered Turkey on the first day of re-opening of the common Iran-Turkey borders, said Iran Customs Administration spokesman Seyyed Ruhollah Latifi. "These 150 trucks have entered Turkey through three common borders of Bazargan, Sarv and Razi," Latifi said.

The official added that 35 Turkish trucks also entered Iran on the same day.

"Some 54 cargos of goods were exported from Iran to Turkey through the Razi Customs checkpoint, and 26 cargos were imported to Iran from Turkey," he said.

Turkey has started to re-open its borders, following months of lockdown, aimed at containing the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus.

Turkey closed its borders in March to prevent the spread of the virus, including borders with Iran.

## Over 673,000 Tons of Commodities Traded

**IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK**

TEHRAN - Over 673,518 MT of commodities worth over \$880m were traded on the Iran Mercantile Exchange last week.

According to the report from IME International Affairs and PR, on the domestic and export metal and mineral trading floor of IME, 223,904 MT of various products worth close to \$446m were traded last week.

On this trading floor, 212,616 MT of steel, 3,880 MT of copper, 7,240 MT of aluminum, 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, 449,914 MT of different commodities with the total value of \$435m were traded.

On this trading floor, 71,060 MT of bitumen, 159,000 MT of VB feed stock, 79,119 MT of polymer products, 43,000 MT of lube cut oil, 30,391 MT of chemical products, 1,550 MT of base oil, 3,000 MT of slaps waxes, 1,074 MT of insulation as well as 61,420 MT of sulfur were traded.



## ESCO, Leading Co. in Logical Pricing

**IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK**

ISFAHAN - Esfahan Steel Company (ESCO) has taken, so far, sets of measures for regulating the consumption market, preventing the hike in prices and attracting customers' satisfaction with an eye on supporting the rights of the final consumers.

The company on May 28 and in an unprecedented move and by sending a letter to all brokers and supervision bodies in the construction sector reduced voluntarily the base price of its product by 420 tomans and it is expected other steel producing



companies in the country to cooperate in this national move.

On this unique move, the CEO of the company Mr. Mansour Yazdizadeh said that one of the important functions of the mercantile exchange is to stop commanding the price and to make transparent the prices and it has done a good job in this field and has attracted the trust of producers.

He noted that although the mercantile exchange has witnessed some commands from the officials in pricing of the goods but due to the good performance of the industry ministry, once again they have trusted steel producers association and producers and the producers are duty-bound to pay off for this trust.

Yazdizadeh admitted that unfortunately some people in the past and through their connections and rent-seeking attitudes have gained profits and they are trying to create turbulence in the steel market by trying to show that mercantile exchange has no positive performance in pricing in order to bring back the former system and revival of rent-seeking.

He added that ESCO as a national collection although it has economic approach, is not ready to sell its products at any cost and it is not ready to see consumers face damage.

He noted that the prices for exports are good yardsticks for pricing for the domestic market and the prices in the domestic market should not exceed the prices of the international market.

Yazdizadeh noted that even share-holders of the company do not support overcharging and increasing the prices, adding that it would lead to the crisis in the market.

He noted that when ESCO felt that the prices in the mercantile exchange may cause some misuse, it voluntarily reduced the base price of its product by 420 tomans in the mercantile market, adding that it was a sign of gratitude to the ministry's decision for trusting the steelmakers.

He expressed hope steelmakers would succeed in earning forex for the country as before despite enemies' sanctions and they could materialize the surge in production slogan.

## Call for Avoiding Sloganizing Environmental Issues

**IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK**

TEHRAN – HSE Manager of Pars Oil and Gas Company called for observing environmental obligations instead of sloganizing environmental issues, and detailed the company's actions in protecting environment.



Speaking on the occasion of World Environment Day, Mr. Mehrdad Dehdari felicitated the day and detailed the company's efforts in protecting environment and its innovative measures to save the environment.

He said the company does not use drinking water for irrigating its refinery's greenspace which is around 70 hectares, adding that the company uses treated wastewater through drip irrigation system and it means the company has kept its greenspace alive without using drinking water.

He pointed to desalinating sea water for use in the processing units of the company, adding that this process is continued without any harm to the environment.

Dehdari added that the company has launched sour water refining units for re-using the wasted water in the operational units, in segregating the acid gases and their transfer to the sulfur recycling unit.

He said using proper measures for efficient water consumption and managing energy consumption is another way for protecting the environment which is fully observed in the company.

Dehdari noted that the company pays attention to all units and installations and repair them, adding that it is one of the solutions for reducing pollution and saving the environment.

He said Persian Gulf Star Refinery for producing high quality gasoline has been one of the main reasons for improvement in air pollution in the country.

He called for putting an end on sloganizing environmental issues and instead he called for culturalizing the issue of protecting the environment, adding that holding seminars, environmental events, educational courses and signing memorandum of understandings are of the major actions of the company regarding its environmental responsibilities.

## Complementary Insurance For Pensioners in Isfahan



**IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK**

ISFAHAN- The CEO of Isfahan Province Water and Wastewater Company during his public meeting emphasized that the company should immediately take measures for all pensioners of the Rural Water and Wastewater Company of the province in order that they can take advantage of services and facilities of Pensioners Center of Isfahan Province Water and Wastewater Company.

Eng. Hashem Amini pointed to offering favorable services to the pensioners, adding that officials involved in this field in the company should provide ways of serving the pensioners by taking accurate and comprehensive plans. He added that the center would provide complementary insurance services for the pensioners of Isfahan Province Rural Water and Wastewater Company.

When asked about subscription fee for water and wastewater branches, he said currently the company registers applications for water and wastewater subscription through its portal 1522 and without presence of the applicants, and it replies to the applications after they pass the legal process.

On giving discount to those who want to use the company's services, he said that according to the law, those who are under coverage of Imam Khomeini Relief Committee and Welfare Organization can get some discount by presenting the necessary documents but other subscribers can get services through installment of their payments.

Amini reiterated that the priority of the water and wastewater companies is to provide sustainable drinking and hygienic water for subscribers and Isfahan Province Water and Wastewater Company is doing its best to offer sustainable services to the public in the shortest time possible because people's satisfaction is the company's main goal.



PERMIT NO : 1399.1119

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

**TENDER NO : OF/99/010**

Well Fishing 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:** Well Fishing Services Including Tools & Expert Personnel

**Location :** IOOC Oli Fields

**Performance Period:** 2 Years

**Other Item Shall be Considered:**

**1:** Ability of submission Bid Bond as in the amount of Iranian **Rial 8,073,200,000** for Iranian Bidders of **Euro 52,894,00** 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) thereof 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**



## Czech Gov't Orders Out Two Russian Embassy Staff

PRAGUE (Reuters) - The Czech government has declared two staff at the Russian Embassy in Prague persona non grata and ordered them to leave, Prime Minister Andrej Babis said on Friday.

He said the decision came after what he called infighting among embassy personnel that led to false allegations about a planned Russian assault on three Czech politicians.

"The entire case came into being as a result of internal feuding among workers at the embassy... with one of them sending made-up information to our (counterintelligence service) about a planned attack on Czech politicians," Babis said in a statement carried live on television.



## Marriott Ceases Cuban Operations

HAVANA (Dispatches) - Marriott has been ordered by the U.S. Treasury Department to close its Four Points Sheraton hotel in Havana by the end of August and abandon plans to open others in Cuba, a spokeswoman for the American hotel group told AFP on Friday.

"We entered the Cuban market in 2016, with permission from the U.S. government," the spokeswoman said.

"Our operating license was reviewed and renewed in 2018. We have recently received notice that the government-issued license will not be renewed, forcing Marriott to cease operations in Cuba."



## French Forces Kill Leader of Al-Qaeda in Maghreb



PARIS (AFP) - French forces have killed the leader of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, Algerian Abdelmalek Droukdel, in northern Mali, France's defense minister said.

Droukdel was killed on Thursday near the Algerian border, where the group has bases from which it has carried out attacks and abductions of Westerners in the sub-Saharan Sahel zone, Defense Minister Florence Parly said Friday.

"Many close associates" of Droukdel -- who commanded several affiliate jihadist groups across the lawless region -- were also "neutralized", she added.

Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) emerged from a group started in the late 1990s by radical Algerian Islamists, who in 2007 pledged allegiance to Osama Bin Laden's Al-Qaeda network.

The group has claimed responsibility for a string of attacks on troops and civilians across the Sahel, including a 2016 attack on an upmarket hotel and restaurant in Burkina Faso, which killed 30 people, mainly Westerners.

France has deployed more than 5,000 troops to combat jihadist groups in the region -- a largely lawless expanse stretching over Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger, where drugs and arms flow through porous borders.

Northern Mali is the site of frequent clashes between rival armed groups, as well as a haven for jihadist activity.

In 2012, key cities fell under the control of jihadist groups linked to Al-Qaeda, who exploited an ethnic Tuareg-led rebel uprising, leading to a French-led military intervention.

According to the UN, Droukdel was an explosives expert and manufactured devices that killed hundreds of civilians in attacks on public places.

He was sentenced to death in Algeria in 2013 for his involvement in the bombings of a government building and offices of the UN's refugee committee in Algiers that killed 26 people and wounded 177.

France also claimed on Friday to have captured a leader of the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (EIGS) group, which carries out frequent attacks over Niger's western borders.

"On May 19, French forces captured Mohamed el Mrabat, veteran jihadist in the Sahel region and an important cadre in EIGS", Parly said on Twitter.

Operations against EIGS "the other great terrorist threat in the region" are continuing, said Parly.

## Virus Crisis Strengthens Italy Premier Conte

ROME (AFP) - Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte's handling of the coronavirus crisis has allowed him to shed his reputation as a weak-willed puppet of other parties and even bolstered his country's image abroad, some experts say.

Italy -- once the epicentre of the outbreak in Europe, which has killed around 34,000 people in the country since February -- is slowly emerging from the world's longest coronavirus shutdown, which has ravaged its economy.

At the same time, the once discounted prime minister is now seeing his approval ratings soar.

"Conte's management of the crisis has been broadly appreciated," said Alessandro Giaccone, political history lecturer at the University of Bologna.

A recent Ixe poll found that 59 percent of Italians trust Conte, who uses Facebook and direct appeals on national television to take his message to the masses. "Conte isn't seen as being a traditional politician but rather as a free agent



## China Warns Against Travel to Australia, Citing Discrimination

BEIJING (Reuters) - China on Friday advised the public to avoid travelling to Australia, citing racial discrimination and violence in connection with the novel coronavirus pandemic.

"There has been an alarming increase recently in acts of racial discrimination and violence against Chinese and Asians in Australia, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic," the Ministry of Culture and Tourism said in a statement.

It did not give any specific examples of such discrimination or violence. Australia rejected the accusations saying they had no basis in fact.

"Our rejection of these claims, which have been falsely made by Chinese officials previously, is well known to them," Trade Minister Simon Birmingham said in a statement.

Asians have faced harassment in various countries since the outbreak of the coronavirus began late last year.

China earlier issued a warning to tourists travelling to the United States after some said they were mistreated in connection with the outbreak.

Australia's relations with China, its most important trading partner, have deteriorated in recent years amid accusations that China is meddling in Australia's affairs.

Australia, a popular destination for tourists and students from China, also fears China is seeking undue influence in the Pacific region.

Ties have been under more strain in recent weeks since Australia called for an international enquiry into the origins of the novel coronavirus.

Last month, China imposed tariff on imports of Australian barley and blocked beef imports from several Australian sources.

## U.S. Planning to Slash Troops in Germany

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - U.S. President Donald Trump has ordered the Pentagon to slash the number of troops it maintains in Germany by more than a quarter in the coming months, the Wall Street Journal reported Friday.

The newspaper said the Defense Department would cut the number of military personnel by 9,500 from the current 34,500 permanently assigned to Germany postings.

The Journal also said a cap of 25,000 would be set on how many US troops could be inside German at any one time, whether in permanent postings or temporary rotations, half of the current allowance.

The move would significantly reduce the US commitment to European defense under the NATO umbrella, though it could also impact

Pentagon operations related to Africa and the Middle East.

White House and Pentagon officials declined to confirm or deny the story, which comes amid tensions between the Trump administration and European allies over longstanding cooperation agreements.

Washington in particular does not think Germany spends enough for its own defense.

John Ulyot, a spokesman for the White House National Security Council, said in a statement that as commander in chief, Trump is always reassessing the presence of US forces overseas.

"The United States remains committed to working with our strong ally Germany to ensure our mutual defense, as well as on many other important issues," Ulyot said.



## Biden Formally Clinches U.S. Democratic Nomination

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Former Vice President Joe Biden formally clinched the Democratic presidential nomination on Friday, media reported, setting the stage for a challenge to President Donald Trump in the November election.

The Associated Press and CBS News both projected that Biden passed the 1,991 delegates he needs to be chosen as nominee at the party's national convention, with contests still to come in eight states and three U.S. territories.

Biden won the delegates after seven states and the District of Columbia held presidential primaries on Tuesday.

"It was an honor to compete alongside one of the most talented groups of candidates the Democratic party has ever fielded -- and I am proud to say that we are going into this general election a united party," Biden said in a statement.

"I am going to spend every day between now and November 3rd fighting to earn the votes of Americans all across this great country so that, together, we can win the battle for the soul of this nation, and make sure that as we rebuild our economy, everyone comes along," he said.



## North Korea Criticizes South Korea, Threatens to Close Liaison Office

SEOUL (Reuters) - North Korea lashed out at South Korea for the second day in a row on Friday, threatening to close an inter-Korean liaison office and calling the South naive to think the North wants dialogue and negotiations right now.

A spokesman for the United Front Department (UFD), which handles inter-Korea affairs, said North Korea would "definitely withdraw" from the liaison office operated with South Korean officials in the North Korean city of Kaesong as the first step in punishing the South for failing to stop defectors from sending leaflets across the border, according to a statement carried by state news agency KCNA.

The liaison office was one of several inter-Korea projects that were implemented during a period of detente between the two Koreas in 2018. Relations between the two countries have cooled again amid stalled talks over North Korea's nuclear weapons.

"We do not hide that we have had long in mind decisive measures to fundamentally remove all provocations from the south and to completely shut down and remove all the contact leverage with the south side," the spokesman said, calling defectors "mongrel dogs" and "human scum" who insulted the dignity of North Korea's supreme leadership.



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# Trump Views U.S.-China Trade Deal Differently

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. President Donald Trump said on Friday he views the Phase 1 trade deal inked between the United States and China differently in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

"I guess I view the trade deal a little bit differently than I did three months ago," Trump said at a news conference in the White House Rose Garden.

"Getting along with China would be a good thing. I don't know if that's going to happen. I'll let you know," he added.



# U.S. Shows Surprising Jobs Recovery in May

NEW YORK (AFP) - The United States regained 2.5 million jobs in May and the unemployment rate dropped as coronavirus pandemic shutdowns began to ease, raising hopes the economy could recover from the crisis sooner than expected.

The Labor Department report released Friday, which showed the jobless rate fall to 13.3 percent, defied even the most optimistic expectations among economists, who had been expecting job losses of more than eight million and a jobless rate of 20 percent or higher.

President Donald Trump immediately cheered the data -- once again violating the government rule that prohibits comment on economic data until one hour after release.

"Really Big Jobs Report. Great going President Trump (kidding but true)!" he said on Twitter moments after the data were released.

The report attributed the improvements to "a limited resumption of economic activity that had been curtailed in March and April due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and efforts to contain it."

However, as it has for the past two months, the Labor Department said the jobless rate was likely three points higher due to errors in how workers described their job status.

A separate report showing state data on weekly initial claims for unemployment benefits show over 42 million people have lost their jobs, at least temporarily, since mid-March when the shutdowns to contain the spread of COVID-19 began.

But with a massive \$3 trillion infusion of government aid, and trillions more in lending to businesses, economists say it is likely firms were able to bring workers back.

"If this sticks, and my guess is it will, we're seeing a faster reopening than most expected, and a quicker unleashing of pent-up demand," economist Jared Bernstein of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities said on Twitter.

Ian Shepherdson of Pantheon Macroeconomics, one of few who anticipated positive news in the jobs data, called the report, "The biggest payroll surprise in history, by a gigantic margin," which he said "likely is due to a wave of hidden rehiring."

With states allowing businesses to reopen, employment last month rose sharply in leisure and hospitality, construction, retail trade and education and health services, according to the data.

And the number of workers on temporary layoff declined by 2.7 million to 15.3 million, in a sign people have been able to return to their jobs.

The gains came despite downward revisions to March and April that subtracted another 690,000 jobs.

But government employment continued to decline sharply, dropping by 585,000 positions.

Some economists had predicted government loans to businesses to rehire workers would offer a temporary improvement in the data, and warn it may be too soon to get confident about the recovery since they may not be able to keep those employees.

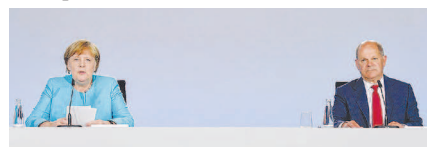
And the good news could sap the government's willingness to extend the aid or provide more, including support for state and local governments.

Harvard economist Jason Furman notes the reduction in temporary layoffs was "the easy part of the recovery," and further job gains may come more slowly. The data also reflect the time before the killing of George Floyd at the hands of police sparked nationwide protests over racial injustice, along with looting in some cities.

# German Stimulus Package Could Be Bigger Than Planned

BERLIN (Reuters) - The size of the economic stimulus package agreed by the German government on Wednesday could be even bigger than the headline 130 billion euro figure, a review by the central data office of state finance ministers shows.

The review, seen by Reuters on Friday, shows the measures agreed by Chancellor Angela Merkel's ruling coalition could add up to as much as 167 billion euros as some projects are due to run over several years.



A spokesman for the Federal Finance Ministry said the government in Berlin was focusing on implementing the historic package, and that the size remained 130 billion euros for the years 2020 and 2021.

The review for the state finance ministers showed several projects are longer-term: funds for the promotion of artificial intelligence and research tax allowances are due to run until 2025, and hydrogen power funds at least until 2030.

Germany is facing the prospect of its deepest recession since World War Two, even though a lockdown that had shuttered shops, businesses and factories is now being eased.

With the stimulus package put together this week, the government wants to give the economy momentum again.

The package includes a temporary reduction in value-added tax, subsidies for families with children, and assistance for municipalities and small and medium-sized businesses.

# Angola Cuts Oil Shipments to China as It Seeks Debt Relief

LONDON (Reuters) - Angola has cut the number of oil cargoes that it will ship to Chinese state firms to pay down debt to Beijing as it seeks to renegotiate repayment terms to deal with the crippling impact of the coronavirus, three sources familiar with the matter said.



Angola said this week it had asked for G20 debt relief and was in advanced talks with some countries importing its oil on adjusting financing facilities, but expects no further debt overhaul to be needed beyond this. The sharp global economic slowdown due to the novel coronavirus pandemic pushed Brent oil prices to their lowest levels since the late 1990s and U.S. oil futures to negative territory for the first time in history. The price drop has put heavily-indebted Angola into a fragile state as it derives a third of state revenues from oil.

By far, its biggest creditor is China. Analysts say Angola has over \$20 billion in bilateral debt with the lion's share owed to China. Much of the cash was borrowed to build roads, hospitals, houses and railways across the southern African country.

On top of its Chinese debt, Luanda secured a \$3.7 billion (£2.93 billion) loan from the International Monetary Fund last year and state oil firm Sonangol has borrowed \$2.5 billion from banks between end-2018 and mid-2019, the IMF said.

A global oil output cut deal led by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has added to Luanda's woes. As an OPEC member, Angola was pressured to cut oil exports starting from May. The result has left the country with fewer and lower-value cargoes to split between paying off its Chinese debt and filling its depleted coffers.

The sources said that China's state-owned Sinochem would receive five cargoes in July, down from the usual seven or eight, while the trading arm of Chinese giant Sinopec called Unipec would receive none.

Unipec typically receives two to three cargoes earmarked as debt repayment.

Sonangol, Angola's finance ministry, Sinopec and Sinochem did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

China's foreign ministry said on Wednesday that the relevant departments were in contact with Angola over its request for debt relief. "These oil-backed loans create stronger interdependence (between lender and borrower) than traditional financing. This tactic of diverting cargoes is not new as seen elsewhere," David Mihalyi, a senior economic analyst with the Natural Resource Governance Institute, said.

Chad threatened to cut repayment cargoes to commodities trader and miner Glencore (GLEN.L) during a major loan restructuring in 2017. Similarly, Congo Republic has cut many repayment oil cargoes to Glencore and commodities trader Trafigura as discussions drag. Angola is not the only African country heavily indebted to China. The IMF and ratings agency Moody's have raised concerns about debt levels in sub-Saharan Africa particularly with China.

# Brexit Trade Talks Make No Significant Progress

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - European Union and British negotiators said on Friday they had made very little progress in their latest round of talks about a Brexit free trade agreement, with just weeks left to extend a year-end deadline to reach a deal.

Both sides, however, avoided the vitriol that has sometimes marked years of tortuous Brexit talks. They laid out plans to intensify negotiations and pleaded for a renewed political push when their leaders assess the situation later in June.

Britain left the EU in January. Their relationship is now governed by a transition arrangement that keeps previous rules in place while they negotiate new terms. So far, this has not gone well.

"This week, there have been no significant areas of progress ... We cannot go on like this forever," EU chief negotiator Michel Barnier told a news conference.

He said the EU and Britain remained far apart on the issues of fair competition guarantees and the governance of their new relationship, as well as fishing rights.

He noted some progress in talks over human rights guarantees that would allow Britain and the EU to go on cooperating in criminal and judicial matters from 2021, but the two sides were still far from agreement.

Britain had a similar message.

"Progress remains limited but our talks have been positive in tone," Britain's chief negotiator, David Frost, said. "Negotiations will continue and we remain committed to a successful outcome."

The EU says Britain can only go on trading freely with it if London signs up to "level playing field" rules to guarantee equivalent regulatory standards on the environment and labor. London rejects this, saying it will not be dictated to by the EU.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is due to hold talks with Barnier's boss, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, and the chairman of the 27 EU leaders, Charles Michel, later this month.



# Kazakhstan CB Seen Keeping Benchmark Rate on Hold

ALMATY (Reuters) - Kazakhstan's central bank is expected to keep its benchmark interest rate unchanged at 9.50% next week

before moving towards monetary easing in the second half of the year, a Reuters poll showed on Friday.

Four out of six analysts polled this week predicted no change in rates at the bank's June 8 policy review. Two forecast a cut to 9.00% next Monday.

The central bank kept the rate unchanged in April after hiking it in March to support the local tenge currency following a plunge in the price of oil, Kazakhstan's main export.

The tenge has since recouped some losses as crude prices bottomed out, although it is 4.6% down year-to-date against the dollar.

Analysts believe the central bank will start easing later this year to support the economy, which has been battered by the crude price slide and the new coronavirus pandemic.

"We expect the central bank to start a round of rate cuts during 2020," said Eurasian Development Bank analyst Aigul Berdigulova.

# Airbus Warns It May Sue Airlines Over Undelivered Jets



PARIS (Reuters) - A stand-off between airplane manufacturers and airlines over the coronavirus crisis is intensifying after Airbus (AIR.PA) signaled it would sue airlines that refuse to honor contracts.

The warning by Chief Executive Guillaume Faury in a news interview came as Airbus prepared to unveil what industry sources expect to be another weak month of delivery data in May. Planemakers and lessors have received multiple requests from airlines to delay deliveries due to the slump in air travel.

Faury told Politico that some airlines, which he did not identify, had refused to take calls at the height of the crisis, but that he hoped for a compromise.

"It will remain, I hope, the exception because we always try to find a different route than going to court," Faury said. "But if and when airlines - and it's happening - have no other choice than fully defaulting and not proposing something better than nothing, or are not willing to do it, then (lawsuits) will happen."

Industry sources said such public warnings are rare in the tight-knit aviation market and could backfire.

But they said the disruption is so great that Airbus is adopting a more aggressive stance, bracing itself for a repeat of turmoil over the 2001 bankruptcies of Swissair and Sabena.

It has sent out dozens of default notices to airlines in a step that can lead to lawsuits but undermine relations, the sources said. Some airlines have responded angrily in private.

Qatar Airways this week warned Airbus and Boeing to defer deliveries or face a loss of future business, without saying whether it had received any formal notices.

In a deliberate signal to the aviation market last month, Airbus unusually placed six planes originally intended for AirAsia, which has halted taking jets, up for sale. Financial sources said no buyer had been found.

Airbus had no immediate comment.



## Police Discovers Over 2,000kg Narcotics

TEHRAN (IRNA)- Commander of the Border Guards of the Islamic Republic of Iran Police Brigadier-General Ahmad Ali Goudarzi announced on Saturday the discovery of more than 2 tons of various narcotics in Sistan and Baluchistan borders, southeast of Iran.

Brigadier-General Goudarzi said that the border guards of Sistan and Baluchistan got tip-off about large drug trafficking gang activities and their planning to import drugs into the Mirjaveh border area. Immediately, the border and operational teams went to the area with full equipment to intercept trafficking by intensified coverage of the area.



## OECD, UN Institutions Demand Green Economic Recovery From Covid-19

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - The growing global consensus on the need to build a green recovery from the economic wreckage of the coronavirus crisis has been yet further underlined by a set of green policy demands released today to mark World Environment Day by host of influential institutions, including the OECD and the UN Development Program (UNDP).

The 12 organizations which make up the Partners for Inclusive Green Economy have identified 10 core principles they argue should inform national and international recovery efforts, with a strong focus on tackling climate change, biodiversity loss, sustainable development, and inequalities.

As countries prepare stimulus plans to rebuild their economies from the damage caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the institutions are calling on governments to use the opportunity to “redouble efforts to meet the ambitions of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement”.

Fiscal stimulus and financial aid packages handed to struggling industries and businesses should “accelerate the transition to a fair and green economy - not undermine it”, the recommendations state, while also stressing the importance of reducing future systemic risks and boosting economic resilience.

In addition, they call on governments to accelerate the energy transition, “tackle” fossil fuel subsidies, strengthen human rights protections, combat gender inequality, and focus on assisting small and medium companies with the shift towards greener practices.

“Pursuing economic recovery, social protection as well as human and ecosystem health need to be an overarching goal for countries,” said Kumi Kitamori, head of green growth at OECD (the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development). “We need to build a more resilient, inclusive and sustainable economic model that prioritizes green and low-carbon policies.”

Others backing the demands include the International Labor Organization, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, Poverty-Environment Action for SDGs, UN Environment Program, Global Green Growth Institute, and the Green Economy Coalition.

UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner said the path to recovering from the devastating impacts of Covid-19 provided economies, societies and communities with an opportunity to “push the hard reset button on their relationships with the environment”.

“In particular, we must insert the DNA of a green economy into all recovery efforts - this is crucial not only to protect ecosystems and biodiversity and restore nature but it will also bring other concrete benefits including the creation of new green jobs and



reductions in inequalities while fostering more resilient communities,” he said.

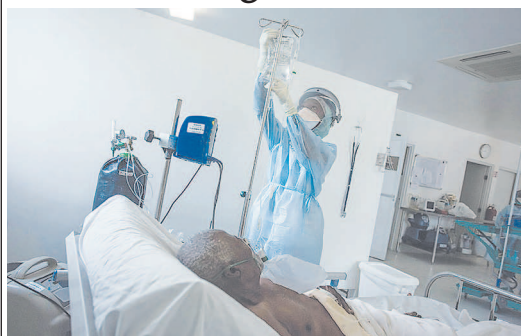
Calls for a green economic recovery that accelerates decarbonization and builds in greater resilience to shocks have reached fever pitch in recent weeks, with hundreds of major companies, investors and influential organizations and campaign groups seemingly broadly united on the issue.

The European Commission last month unveiled a major €1.85tr recovery package it promised would prioritize the shift to a net zero economy, while Germany this week announced plans to assign €40bn to climate-related initiatives as part of its new stimulus package.

In the UK, Prime Minister Boris Johnson has signaled his desire to “build back better” from the current crisis by investing in green infrastructure and the government is set to unveil its own hotly-anticipated economic recovery package next month, with the Treasury reportedly pushing for a focus on a “green industrial revolution”.

However, details remain scant at present and campaigners were left disappointed yesterday when it was confirmed that the Bank of England’s Covid Corporate Financing Facility (CCFF) has provided billions of pounds in loans to carbon intensive businesses with seemingly no climate-related conditions attached.

## Brazil Virus Toll Surges To Third-Highest in World



BRASILIA (Dispatches) - Brazil’s death toll from the new coronavirus surpassed Italy’s to become the third-highest in the world, as Europe emerged from punishing lockdowns and the EU pressed for a reopening of borders.

The bleak figures from Brazil underlined the toll the virus is taking in Latin America, the latest epicenter in the pandemic, even as Europe was emerging from its darkest days -- with the latest help coming from a new 600-billion-euro (\$674 billion) economic stimulus measure announced by the European Central Bank.

In a bid to further boost growth, the EU Commission called for member states to lift all border restrictions by the end of June. “We are coming very close to a situation where we should lift all the internal border restrictions and border checks,” Home Affairs Commissioner Ylva Johansson said late on Thursday.

But across the Atlantic, the pandemic continued to gather pace.

Brazil’s death toll topped 34,000, overtaking Italy’s to become the third highest in the world, while cases Mexico, Peru, Ecuador and Chile continued to mount.

Impoverished Haiti, with its fragile health system, is also seeing worrying trends as infections and deaths rise in the face of swirling rumors and disinformation about the severity of the disease.

When 25-year-old Jonel Cadet tested positive, he said: “I didn’t believe it, and I even said the president was talking nonsense.”

“It was only by coming here that I really started to believe, because I saw people who were much worse off,” he told AFP from a hospital in Cite Soleil.

Since emerging in China late last year, the virus has infected at least 6.6 million people, killed more than 390,000 and wreaked havoc on the global economy by forcing millions to stay inside their homes.

After Brazil reported a new 24-hour record death toll, its fatalities stand behind only the United States, with more than 108,000 deaths, and Britain, with nearly 40,000.

Far-right President Jair Bolsonaro has fiercely criticised coronavirus stay-at-home measures, arguing that they are needlessly hurting the economy.

Brazil is the hardest-hit country in Latin America, though Mexico reported a record number of new infections for the second straight day, with 4,442.

## FAO Warns Desert Locust Will Fuel Hunger in Asia, the Pacific

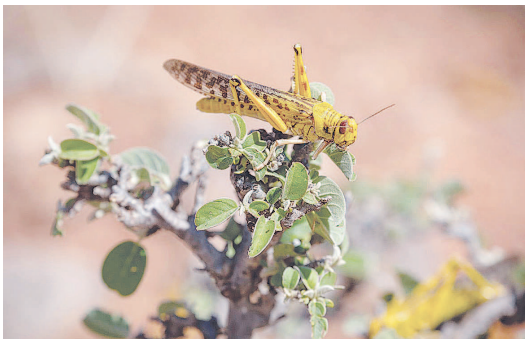
TEHRAN (FAO) - While the world fights to slow the spread of COVID-19, the worst pandemic experienced in a century, countries in South and Southwest Asia are simultaneously responding to plagues of pests which threaten to worsen hunger and the livelihoods of millions of people, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) warned.

Swarms of Desert Locust, over the last couple of months, have moved swiftly into west Asia attacking vegetation in parts of Iran and Pakistan, and are now threatening crops in India. These swarms are the worst experienced in more than a generation.

Fall armyworm, a maize-destroying pest that migrated to Asia from Africa in 2018, has also spread across the continent and has arrived in Australia.

While the lockdowns of countries across the Asia-Pacific Region in response to COVID-19 have taken their toll on the economies, lives and livelihoods of millions of people, the convergence of these plant pests will only add to the suffering.

“We cannot and must not under-estimate the damage to lives and livelihoods that the convergence of these crises will have on food security and hunger in this part of the world, already home to most of its undernourished people,” said Jong-Jin Kim, FAO Deputy Regional Representative and Head of the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. “While we continue the battle to save lives and contain the spread of COVID-19, we must now fight a war that has multiple fronts and various



enemies here in the Asia-Pacific region,” Kim added.

Desert Locusts can devour huge amounts of vegetation, including wild plants, trees and grasslands, but they also attack vegetable crops and fruit trees.

A single swarm of Desert Locust can cover an entire square kilometre and contain some 80 million insects. FAO experts

estimate the number of locusts could grow twenty-fold in the upcoming rainy season in South Asia unless extra measures to counter the swarms are put in place. FAO is tracking the movements across Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

In many countries affected by Fall armyworm (FAW), COVID-19 lockdowns have resulted in pest management activities being reduced or ceased entirely. FAO has published a guidance note for responding to outbreaks of FAW during the simultaneous challenges faced by countries’ responses to COVID-19.

Farmers need significant support to manage FAW sustainably in their cropping systems through Integrated Pest Management (IPM) activities. FAO has launched a Global Action for FAW Control as a response to the international threat that FAW is posing for food security and the livelihoods of millions of smallholder farmers.

“FAO continues to support our member countries in response to these and other threats in these very challenging times,” said Kim. “Together we’ll get through this, for our own sake, and for the sake of future generations.”

## Global Vaccines Program Gets \$8.8b Shot in the Arm

LONDON (Dispatches) - Governments around the world pledged \$8.8 billion for global vaccines alliance Gavi to help immunization programs disrupted by coronavirus, prompting calls for global cooperation to ensure a potential COVID-19 vaccine is available to all.

The online meeting beat a target to raise \$7.4 million to provide vaccines at a much reduced cost to 300 million children worldwide over the next five years. More than 50 countries took part as well as individuals such as billionaire philanthropist Bill Gates, whose foundation pledged \$1.6 billion.

Gavi also launched a new initiative to purchase potential COVID-19 vaccines, scale-up production and support delivery to developing nations, which raised \$567 million in seed money.

“Together, we rise to fulfil the greatest shared endeavour of our lifetimes -- the triumph of humanity over disease,” said British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who hosted the summit.

“Today we make the choice to unite, to forge a path of global cooperation.”

Scientists around the world are racing to develop and test a coronavirus vaccine and United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres said it must be available to everyone. “A vaccine must be seen as a global public good -- a people’s vaccine, which a growing number of world leaders are calling for,” he said in a video message.

There needs to be “global solidarity to ensure that every person, everywhere, has access”.

The pandemic has exposed new ruptures in international cooperation, notably with US President Donald Trump’s decision to pull out of the World Health Organization (WHO).

But Gavi chief executive Seth Berkley insisted there must be a “global perspective”.

“At the end of the day, if you have large outbreaks of COVID anywhere in the world, it threatens the world,” he said.

### No Definite End...

FROM PAGE 1

Rouhani stressed that “the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade must make the necessary and comprehensive plans for the completion and operation of the semi-finished projects as soon as possible in the year of Surge in Production and seriously pursue them until the results are achieved.”

The president referred to the instructions given to relevant officials, including the governor of the Central Bank regarding the provision of foreign exchange resources, and said, “It is necessary to seriously pursue the basic goods needed by the people, as well as the raw materials of factories and manufacturing enterprises in order to achieve the prosperity and surge in production”.

He also referred to the issues discussed in the meetings of the National Task Force for Fighting Coronavirus and the meeting of the chairmen of the committees of the task force and said, “Pay attention to enough production and precise distribution of masks by targeting enough availability to the public.”

Rouhani once again thanked all those at work in the field of production, especially the country’s hardworking workers, who in the past months, despite the dangerous situation caused by the coronavirus outbreak, did not allow the country’s production wheel to stop.

### White Expelled Due...

FROM PAGE 1

As he added, some of the U.S. officials, including Brian Hook, planned to put forward White’s death due to a chronic disease in Iran as an anti-Iranian propaganda but by his release, all the scenarios have been foiled.

He also rejected the probability of any direct talks held between Iran and the U.S. about the swap of the prisoners, underlining that Switzerland has acted as the mediator in this regard.

White was released on June 4, with Islamic kindness and based human rights considerations, and left Tehran to join his family soon. Since White had no one in Iran, he was handed over to the US interests section in the country, i.e. the Embassy of Switzerland.

Simultaneous with White’s release, Majid Taheri, an Iranian scientist who was imprisoned in the United States for false reasons, was released too.

Majid Taheri was sentenced to 16 months in prison for charges of circumventing unilateral anti-Iranian sanctions.

### IAEA Report...

FROM PAGE 1

He stated that in this report, the IAEA confirms the “Continuation of the temporary and voluntary implementation of the additional protocol by Iran along with the continued verification of protocol declarations by the IAEA”.

Also, the report indicates “proper cooperation of Iran” and “the continued verification of the non-deviation of the stated nuclear material in Iran by the IAEA”.

Following the unilateral and illegal withdrawal of the United States from the JCPOA (May 8, 2018), Iran sought to maintain the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty on the condition that other parties to the agreement comply with its obligations, but the Europeans did not succeed in doing so.

Under such circumstances, the Supreme National Security Council of Iran announced on May 8, 2019, the anniversary of the US withdrawal from the JCPOA, that it would gradually reduce its commitments under Articles 26 and 36 of the agreement to strike a balance between Iran’s commitments and rights.

### Russian Envoy...

FROM PAGE 1

“This is the responsibility of some individual Member States who leak the reports to #US media in a hope that they will create unhealthy atmosphere around Iran,” Russian diplomat noted.

Following the unilateral withdrawal of Iran from the JCPOA, Iran tried to maintain the nuclear deal on the condition that other parties to the agreement comply with their commitments under the deal, but after a lapse of nearly two years and European parties’ failure to uphold commitments to preserve Iran’s economic benefits, Iran began steps to reduce its commitments over a 60-day period.

### Pandemic Didn’t Halt...

FROM PAGE 1

In this visit, the acting minister stressed the need for promoting the presence of Iranian dairy products in the export markets of Eurasia, saying: “Exports of dairy products to Eurasia should be improved, especially since Iran has a preferential trade agreement with the union, which will pave the way for more Iranian exporters to compete in their markets.”

“Export markets in the region have provided a good opportunity for Iranian exporters; meanwhile, 60 percent of the country’s exports go to the target markets of neighboring countries,” he added.



## Becker Does Not Rule Out a Return to Coaching

MUMBAI (Reuters) - German tennis great Boris Becker, who previously worked with reigning world number one Novak Djokovic, has not ruled out a return to coaching, the six-times Grand Slam champion said.

During his stint with Becker, Djokovic won six Grand Slam titles. After they parted ways, Becker was named by the German tennis federation as head of men's tennis, a position he holds today.

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## World 400m Champion Provisionally Suspended by AIU

LONDON (Reuters) - Women's 400 metres world champion L Salwa Eid Naser of Bahrain has been handed a provisional suspension for failing to make herself available for anti-doping tests, the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) said on Friday.

Naser won gold at the World Championships in Doha last year with a time of 48.14 seconds, the third fastest in history, to become the first Asian to claim the women's 400 metres world title.

# Tokyo to Skip One-Year Olympic Countdown Over Virus

TOKYO (Dispatches) - Tokyo will scrap events marking a year to go until the postponed 2020 Olympic Games, organizers said Friday, citing the "current economic situation" caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

The Games have been pushed back until July 23, 2021 because of the disease outbreak, though it remains unclear whether even that delay will be sufficient.

Last year, the city and organizers held a series of events to mark the one-year countdown, including unveiling the newly designed medals.

But given the global crisis, organizers ruled out a similar celebration.

"In view of the current economic situation, Tokyo 2020 will not be holding any events to mark the new one year to go milestone for the Games," the organizers said.

"But we will consider what we can do to show our solidarity with the people."

The confirmation came after reports in the Japanese media that organizers would scrap the event, fearing it was inappropriate given the global pandemic and the ongoing risk of infection inside Japan.

Kyodo News agency reported that posters and messages of encouragement to athletes might be put up and displayed online instead, adding that the organizing committee felt a more "moderate tone" was appropriate.

A nationwide state of emergency over the virus has been lifted in Japan, but a recent rise in cases in Tokyo has led to fears of a second wave.

## Benfica Players' Houses Vandalized After Bus Attack

LISBON (Reuters) - The houses of several Benfica players were vandalised hours after the Portuguese champions' bus was attacked following Thursday's goalless draw with Tondela, newspaper Tribuna Expresso reported on Friday.

The report said the vandals had spraypainted threats against the players on the houses, adding that one of the homes targeted belonged to star midfielder and Portugal international Pizzi.

Benfica did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The team bus was attacked by people throwing stones from a motorway as it was returning from the Estadio da Luz to the club's training ground.

German midfielder Julian Weigl and Serbian winger Andrija Zivkovic were taken to hospital as a precaution after being hit by broken glass. The match was Benfica's first since the season resumed after being disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Although they could only draw against lowly Tondela, they returned to the top of the table on goal difference, but failed to open up a gap on title rivals Porto.

Fans were unable to enter the stadium to prevent further spread of the virus although supporters still greeted the team's arrival before the match.

## Liverpool to Resume Title Quest Against Everton On June 21

LONDON (Reuters) - Liverpool will resume their quest for a first top-flight title in 30 years against city rivals Everton on June 21, as the Premier League released its revised fixture list for the first three weeks of the restarted season on Friday.

Soccer in England has been suspended since mid-March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but clubs have voted to restart the season on June 17 when second-placed Manchester City host Arsenal and Sheffield United visit relegation-threatened Aston Villa.

Liverpool are 25 points clear at the top and are two victories away from winning the Premier League, but will have a shot at securing the title by beating Everton if City lose to Arsenal.

The latest reports come after Tokyo's governor confirmed the city and organizers are looking at ways to scale back next year's Games.

Japanese media said streamlining plans could involve cutting the number of spectators and reducing participation in the opening and closing ceremonies.

The Yomiuri Shimbun daily quoted an unnamed source as saying that everyone including athletes, officials and spectators would be required to take a test for the virus.

Tokyo 2020 declined to comment on those reports, saying discussions about coronavirus countermeasures would be held "from this autumn onwards".

Organizers and Tokyo officials face the twin headaches of ensuring the postponed Games can be held safely, given the pandemic, and keeping additional costs to a minimum.

But with the pandemic continuing to rage in much of the world, it remains unclear whether the Games can be held next year.

On Friday, a member of the organizing committee's executive board said a

## Bundesliga Coaches Call for Easing of Health Regulations

BERLIN (Dispatches) - Bundesliga coaches have called for some easing of the league's strict hygiene regulations, citing the general improvement of the coronavirus situation in the country.

Coaches and substitutes have to follow social-distancing guidelines and wear masks while on the bench and players are not allowed to hug each other during goal celebrations.

Germany has been easing its lockdown restrictions in the weeks since the Bundesliga restarted in mid-May.

"It's become difficult to understand why people can again have their cappuccino in a cafe without wearing a mask, while the substitutes and us directors in the stands are forced to keep our distance while outdoors and wearing a mask," said Bayer Leverkusen sporting director Rudi Voller.

There has not been a positive case for COVID-19 in the Bundesliga since the resumption, but teams are still subject to stringent rules regarding social distancing in hotels and in stadiums.

"It's great that we can play again," said Leverkusen coach Peter Bosz. "The DFL (German league) has done things very well.

"But the protocols were worked out in March, and now it is June. The best thing would be to have the right to celebrate a goal all together again."

Paderborn coach Steffen Baumgart thinks the rules should be loosened for the media.



decision on whether the Games could be held or not would need to be taken in spring.

"I think we need to decide around March next year," Toshiaki Endo, a former Olympic minister told reporters, denying speculation that the IOC intends to make a decision in October.

IOC chief Thomas Bach said last month that 2021 was the "last option" for holding the Tokyo Games, stressing that postponement cannot go on forever.

He declined to say whether a vaccine was a prerequisite for going ahead with the Olympics, but was lukewarm on the idea of holding them behind closed doors.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has said it would be "difficult" to hold the postponed Tokyo Olympics if the coronavirus pandemic is not contained.

And Tokyo 2020 president Yoshiro Mori has said the Olympics would have to be cancelled if the disease isn't under control by next year.



## Hamilton Back on Track Next Week in Mercedes F1 Test

LONDON (Reuters) - Six-times Formula One world champion Lewis Hamilton will be back on track at Silverstone next week for the first time since February as Mercedes gear up for the start of the delayed Formula One season.

Mercedes said on Twitter that Hamilton will be in his title-winning 2018 Mercedes W09 car on Wednesday, with team mate Valtteri Bottas driving on Tuesday, to practise protocols for the July 5 Austrian opener.

Formula One has published an initial calendar with eight races in 10 weeks, taking place without spectators and in carefully controlled conditions because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Silverstone, which hosts Hamilton's home British Grand Prix, is due to host two back-to-back races in August when it will also celebrate the 70th anniversary of the first world championship grand prix there.

Drivers have not raced since December, with the planned season-opener in Australia cancelled in March, and while they have been busy training during the lockdown some are concerned about preparedness.

Mercedes returned to work only this week after a long factory shutdown as part of cost-saving measures.

"There is going to be so much rust, a combination of emotion, excitement, eagerness," Australian Daniel Ricciardo said last month.

"Everyone is going to be ready to go. You are going to get some guys who perform on that level of adrenalin and others who might not," added the Renault driver.

"So you're going to get some bold overtakes, some miscalculated ones. You're going to see a bit of everything."

## Hungarian GP Contract Extended By a Year to 2027

LONDON (Reuters) - Hungarian Grand Prix organizers have negotiated a year's contract extension to 2027 to compensate for having to hold this year's Formula One race without spectators due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hungary is set to be the third race of a shortened season on July 19, after back-to-back grands prix behind closed doors in Austria.

Hungaroring CEO Zsolt Gyulay said there had been discussions with Formula One's commercial rights holders Liberty Media about compensation for the lack of ticket revenues.

"We did our best during the discussions to get a good agreement both for the country and the sport even in these challenging times," the official race website <http://www.hungaroring.hu> quoted him as saying.

"We cannot say exact numbers, but (the) rights fee is a fragment of the one we pay in case of an open event. Furthermore, we have achieved an extension in our contract, so now it is valid until 2027 instead of 2026."

Gyulay said the annual increase of the rights fee had also been reduced.

The Hungarian Grand Prix has been held every year since the first in 1986.

With Monaco cancelled this year, the Hungaroring near Budapest will be second after Italy's Monza in the current list of longest uninterrupted runs on the F1 calendar.

