

Chairman of Belarus House of Representatives Vladimir Andreichenko in a Message to Majlis Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf Called for Boosting Mutual Relations With Iran in Various Areas

IRAN NEWS

Russia's FM Is Accusing the U.S. of Unleashing a Politically Motivated Campaign Against Iran and Is Calling For "Universal Condemnation" of the U.S. Attempt to Impose Permanent Arms Embargo on Iran

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People Contributing To Economy by Trading Shares

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN – President Hassan Rouhani says the Tehran Stock Exchange has increased people's contribution to the country's economy.

President Rouhani on Tuesday called on the High Stock Exchange Council as well as the Securities and Exchange Organization to offer the necessary support to "make this secure atmosphere all the more promising for people and make this market move full steam ahead."

"Freeing up Justice Shares was a major move made on the back of years of effort by the government," said the president in a Cabinet meeting held to coordinate economic activities.

Justice shares were bonds that government offered to people years ago, but remained under the government control. Recently, people were authorized to take control of their shares and trade them on the stock exchange.

"Now, people own shares whose ownership was not transparent before, and which people would not be able to trade," he added.

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74 More Iranians Die From COVID-19

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN – Newly appointed Health Ministry Spokeswoman Sima Sadat Lari said yesterday that 74 more Iranians have passed away from coronavirus (COVID-19) over the past 24 hours bringing the total deaths in the country to 8,425.

She went on to say that 138,457 people out of a total of 175,927 infected with the deadly virus have recovered.

The official pointed out that 2,095 new infected cases have been detected since yesterday (Monday).

The Iranian official noted that 2,639 cases are in critical condition.

Meanwhile the senior member of Iran's COVID-19 epidemiology national committee, Ehsan Mostafavi said on Tuesday that compared with so many countries around the world, the COVID-19 death toll in Iran is considerably low because of young age context.

Ehsan Mostafavi on Tuesday via video conferencing said, "An important factor in the low mortality of corona in Iran compared to many countries, is the young age context in Iran."

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CIA, Mossad Spy Sentenced to Death



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Judiciary's spokesman Gholam-Hossein Esmaili Mahmoud Mousavi Majd who was linked with CIA and Mossad and has provided them with intelligence from security bodies, especially armed forces like IRGC was sentenced to death.

Esmaili stated that Mousavi Majd had disclosed information on the location of Iranian military sites and commanders.

He added that the convict had connections with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the Israeli espionage service Mossad.

In exchange for receiving dollars, the spy gathered intelligence for the CIA and Mossad on the Iranian security sphere and Armed Forces, including on the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Quds Forces.

On the release of Michael White, an American citizen from prison, he said, "This was a humanitarian action within the framework of laws and regulations and Iran also tried to free innocent Iranians by releasing Michael White."

Esmaili added, "The Judiciary's contribution to the release of American prisoners helped the release of some of our innocent compatriots who were imprisoned in the United States."

The spokesman referred to the leniencies given to the release of American prisoner and said: "This person (Michael White) also had a private plaintiff (relator), and after the consent of the complainant, leniencies were considered for this prisoner."

He added, "White had AIDS and it was possible that a problem would happen to him, but fortunately it did not. He with a serious illness was imprisoned in such a way that not only did his illness not worsen, but he also went through a process of recovery and was released."

Esmaili added: "The issue of prisoners and detainees is the responsibility of the judiciary, and without the permission of the judiciary, there will be no talk of releasing prisoners, and it is better those who are not responsible for this do not promise the release of foreign prisoners. The judiciary itself decides which prisoner can be released, but we use the views of the Supreme National Security Council."

On the Ukrainian passenger plane crash, the spokesman said, 6 people have been arrested in this regard.

He also urged government officials to avoid giving any promise on the release of other prisoners without coordination with the Judiciary.

U.S. Warns Against Dealing With Top Iran Shipper

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States warned Monday that it would punish any country that deals with Iran's top shipping company, accusing it of contributing to Tehran's contested weapons programs.

The Treasury Department said sanctions came into effect Monday against the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines, known by its acronym IRISL, as well as its Shanghai-based subsidiary E-Sail.

Under the sanctions, the United States threatens unilateral action against any government, business or person that does business with IRISL.

"We urge government authorities worldwide to investigate all IRISL and E-Sail activity in your ports and territorial seas and take appropriate action to put a halt to it," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a statement.

"The world must be vigilant and take action to prevent Iran from acquiring proliferation-sensitive items that further threaten regional stability and security," he said.

IRISL, which has interests around the globe, is the world's 15th largest shipping line in terms of cargo carried, according to the latest figures available from database Alphaliner.

U.S. officials say that IRISL has shipped sensitive cargo for Iran's military and assisted its ballistic missile program, which Tehran insists is legal as UN Security Council resolutions ban only nuclear-related activity.

IRISL was already under U.S. sanctions related to Iran's nuclear program, but the latest move toughens the ramifications by targeting it more broadly over weapons of mass destruction.

The United States announced the sanctions in December but delayed their implementation, saying it wanted to give countries time to find other ways to conduct humanitarian trade not subject to U.S. sanctions.

China remains the primary trading partner of Iran, with U.S. allies leaving the country due to the threat of U.S. sanctions.

ViewPoint

By: Hamid Reza Naghashian

Is Oil Market the Target of Interaction?

During those days that the Coronavirus pandemic had spread wave of fear and concerns worldwide, there was such a recession dominating the oil market that surprised the world. This recession was so that the U.S. was ready to pay \$35 per barrel to those who were ready to buy its oil in order to save extractions from its oil wells. Now after two months of fight with main rival of economy, the Coronavirus, while some group supporting the fight with the virus and some group defending reopening of economy through observing social distancing, the oil price is getting upward trend.

Oil price despite uncertainties from the virus is growing but it has also experienced swings resulted from the condition in the market. Early this week, the crude benchmark Brent, with seven percent growth, inched towards \$43 per barrel and the price of the U.S. West Texas intermediate crude reached \$40 per barrel. This change in the nature of the market's approach has important reasons that some reason can be like strengthening of the demand which had suffered serious damage after the outbreak of COVID-19.

Most experts believe that devastating effects of COVID-19 on the U.S. economy are going downward. The murder of George Floyd and following protests have still overshadowed the U.S. community, and employment market in the U.S. is changing. The U.S. unemployment rate while was 14.7 percent in April improved in May and reached 13.3 percent. This is while the number of total unemployed population in the U.S. is estimated at 40m people. On the other hand, statistics show that demand for oil, which had faced heavy decline this year and especially it was 21m barrels lower in April comparing to the preceding year, is gradually improving. Consumption of oil products is on the rise. The demand for gasoline in some countries like China, the U.S. and Europe is increasing. The fuel jet price is soaring with slower pace because of restrictions imposed on passenger plane flights in countries. These data are reported while measurement of greenhouse gases shows that the amount of carbon dioxide emission in Earth's atmosphere has increased comparing to the preceding year. The CO2 levels reached a record high in May which were an average of just over 417 parts per million, or ppm, which grew by 2.5 ppm.

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WB Expects Iran Economy Back on Track in 2021

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – World Bank (WB) in its latest report on the global economy dubbed "Global Economic Prospects" released on Monday, sees Iran's gross domestic product (GDP) to increase by 2.1 percent in 2021.

According to the report, Iran's GDP is going to fall 5.3 percent in the current year due to the negative impacts of the coronavirus outbreak on the country's economic sectors.

"Iran's GDP is expected to shrink again in 2020, by 5.3 percent, partly reflecting the effects of the large-scale COVID-19 outbreak on domestic consumption and the services sectors (e.g., tourism)," the report said.

Underlining the downward trend of inflation among West Asian countries, World Bank stated that "Iran's inflation has been falling on a year-by-year basis, although it remains elevated at about 20 percent."

The bank's data show that 2020 is going to be the last year with a negative economic growth rate for Iran, since in 2021 Iran's economic growth rate is projected at 2.1 percent.

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Re-Export of Iranian Fishery Products to EU Begins

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran Fisheries organization said on Tuesday that the export and registration of new companies for exporting Iranian fishery and aquaculture products to EU has begun despite the U.S. arbitrary sanctions.

The Agriculture Ministry reported that despite the U.S. sanctions that caused a lot of problems for the export of fishery products, Iran succeeded again to obtaining a license to export aquaculture and fishery products to the EU.

It is possible to register and export new Iranian companies to the European Union in line with the criteria set by the fisheries organization with the EC code.

EAEU Ideal Opportunity For Enhancement of Iran-Kyrgyzstan Trade

TEHRAN (Tasnim) –President Hassan Rouhani called for the promotion of trade ties with Kyrgyzstan within the framework of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

In a telephone conversation with his Kyrgyz counterpart Sooronbay Jeenbekov on Tuesday, Rouhani said the Eurasian Economic Union has provided a good opportunity for closer economic and trade interaction between Tehran and Bishkek.

Stressing the need for the promotion of economic relations between the two nations, he added, “We should not wait for an end to the coronavirus for economic cooperation, as we can expand the trade exchanges and economic cooperation within the framework of the health protocols.”

The president further pointed to the completion of a sports complex project in the Kyrgyz city of Osh with the help of Iranian engineers, saying Iranian companies are fully prepared to offer technical and engineering services to Kyrgyzstan.

“Iranian engineers and experts are ready for cooperation (with Kyrgyzstan) in the construction of power plants, power transmission lines, dams, and roads, and in the projects on development of electricity facilities,” he stated.

Rouhani also highlighted Iran’s success in the battle with COVID-19 and production of the necessary equipment by Iranian knowledge-based companies, stressing, “Undoubtedly, in order for us to be able to protect our people against this virus, all countries should assist each other.”

“Despite the restrictions and pressures imposed by the US against Iran, we have fortunately achieved good success in the fight against the virus, and could also help



a number of friendly countries, such as Kyrgyzstan, in the battle with the disease.”

For his part, Jeenbekov emphasized the need for enhancing relations with Iran in all fields, saying, “Kyrgyzstan will always remain a friend and brother of Iran.”

He further expressed gratitude to Iran for giving Kyrgyzstan medical assistance in the battle with the novel coronavirus.

“Iran has achieved good success in producing the equipment for the fight against coronavirus, and I’m glad that we can meet our demands in this field through Iran.”

Pointing to the far-reaching impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on the world economy, the Kyrgyz president called for efforts to broaden the trade and economic relations and increase joint investment.

Back in May, Iran sent a consignment of humanitarian aid to Kyrgyzstan to fight the coronavirus pandemic.

The medical cargo weighing more than 3 tons was delivered by a charter flight from Mashhad to Bishkek on May 18.

Talks Underway for Exporting Corona-Related Products Overseas

TEHRAN (MNA) – Talks are underway with various organizations and companies to take advantage of the opportunity of exporting products related to the COVID-19, abroad, according to an Iranian official.

Head of International Interaction Center of the Vice-Presidency for Science and Technology Affairs Mahdi Ghalenoei said that effective steps have been taken for easing the export of coronavirus products of domestic companies to other countries.

He made the remarks yesterday and stated, “the issue of exporting products related to COVID-19 has become important at the condition that many countries are unable to export these products.”

Currently, more than 80 countries in the world have been banned from exporting corona-related products due to the terms and conditions created in this regard, he emphasized.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Ghalenoei pointed to the products that can be exported and added, “COVID-19 diagnostic kits, ventilators, oxygen generators, pulse oximeters, thermometers, face mask production equipment, medical gloves, disinfectant solutions, etc. are of the products that are produced by knowledge-based companies in the country and meet the country’s demands.”

Many countries in the world need these products and cannot produce themselves due to the lack of infrastructure as well as some other factors, he stressed.

Turning to the target countries for exporting such products, he said, “these countries include Central Asian states, and neighboring countries, including Oman and Qatar. This issue can create a golden opportunity for Iranian knowledge-based companies to be able to export their products.”

Iran to Open Digital Economy Park

TEHRAN (IFP) - Iran is to establish a digital economy park to further boost the biome of technological and knowledge-based businesses in this domain on the grounds of the Pardis Technology Park.

The agreement to build the park was signed by Vice President for Science and Technology Sorena Sattari and Minister of Communications and Information Technology Mohammad-Javad Azari Jahromi.

Speaking on the sidelines of the signing ceremony, Sattari said the agreement will set the stage for the development of the biome of digital businesses.

“With the establishment of the digital economy park on the 30-hectar grounds of the Pardis Technology Park, the groundwork will be laid for knowledge-based businesses and startups in the domain of digital economy, information technology and communications to develop and make progress besides other technological fields which develop in the biome of Pardis,” he said.

He added total sales by companies in this biome amounted to more than Rls. 110 trillion last year, and soon the grounds of Pardis will be expanded to 1,000 hectares and it will turn into a technology town,” he added.

He said knowledge-based firms and startups based in this park achieve new accomplishments on a regular basis.

The communications and information technology minister, in turn, said the establishment of the digital economy park is part of cooperation between his ministry and the Science and Technology Department of the Presidential Office.

He said a jump in domestic production, as the Leader has emphasized, in order to give fresh impetus to economic growth would be a response to sanctions.

Paris Voices Readiness to Expand Ties With Tehran

TEHRAN (IRNA) - French envoy to Tehran said that Paris welcomes the development of friendly relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran in various fields, especially parliamentary relations.

Philippe Thiebaud made the remarks in his meeting with senior advisor to the Iranian parliament speaker Hossein Amir Abdollahian.

The French ambassador congratulated the Speaker and Members of the Iranian new parliament and said: The position and role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in helping to ensure stability and security in the region is important.

The French Ambassador said, “France welcomes the development of friendly relations with Iran in various fields, especially parliamentary relations.”

“The initiative of French President Emmanuel Macron has been in the context of respect for the nuclear deal,” he said.

The ambassador welcomed the consultations and cooperation between France and Iran in helping resolve regional issues, including the fight against terrorism, saying that increasing parliamentary engagement is effective in strengthening



relations between the two countries.

Amir- Abdollahian pointed to the long history of relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and France, saying that development of relations between the two countries, especially in the parliamentary arena, has an effective role in increasing the level of interaction.

The Islamic Republic of Iran expects France not to let the enemies of the historical relations between the two countries leave impacts on the longstanding relations between the two countries.

He criticized the behavior of European countries in the face of U.S. unilateral actions and other abnormal behaviors in the world community, saying that the European countries must stand up to arbitrary and unilateral decisions of the United States, while showing their independence, to prevent contradictory monopolies Human rights, peace and security in the world.

Referring to the prevalence of coronavirus in the world, Amir Abdollahian said, “The Islamic Republic of Iran is successfully fighting this disease in the face of oppressive and inhumane U.S. sanctions.”

U.S. Knocked out in Social Media

TEHRAN (ILNA) - Iranian Ambassador to China Mohammad Keshavarz-Zadeh in a message referred to recent war of words between Iran and U.S. embassies in Beijing over dropping a few zeros from Iranian national currency and the violence caused by racism in the U.S., saying hit-and-run era in social media is over and US Administration suffered heavy knockout.

Era of a hit-and-run in cyberspace is over, after the martyrdom of Lieutenant General Qasem Soleimani, U.S. embassy in China started a series of attacks against Iran which was faced with crushing response, Keshavarz-zadeh wrote in his Twitter account.

They humiliated Iran in Sina Weibo [Chinese microblogging website] and were knocked out again, he said adding that the Iranian embassy’s posts in Sina Weibo were welcomed by Chinese users.

The Twitter war of words was first started by the U.S. in which it humiliated Iran’s initiative for dropping a few zeros from its national currency aiming to control inflation.

“In response, the Iranian embassy said that US solution to the economic crisis was to print money like crazy, its solution to the COVID-19 epidemic was to pass the buck and withdraw from global organizations, and its solution to racial issues was to kneel on the neck,” Chinese media Global Times said.

Tehran Metro to Get Suicide-Prevention Glass Walls

TEHRAN (IFP) - Glass walls are to be erected at the edge of platforms in 35 subway stations across Tehran to prevent people committing suicide by jumping in front of the trains.

Commander of the Tehran Metro Police said studies have been carried out to construct platform glass walls in 35 subway stations, noting that infrastructure of the project is being developed.

Colonel Saeed Ataollahi said Police officers are on duty in all metro stations, and there are also central Police offices in 13 stations.

Police are ensuring security at all subways stations round the clock, the commander noted, pointing to special plans to prevent suicides.

“Police have prevented suicide attempts in a considerable number of cases. Maybe someone decides to commit suicide suddenly because of mental and psychological problems, but we have trained the Police forces what to do in that occasion,” Ataollahi noted.

The security forces would not let the person who has attempted suicide leave the place, but take care of the distressed person and call his or her family for post-traumatic health care service, the colonel added.

He said the Police have informed the Tehran Metro of the need to erect glass walls, noting that such suicide barriers are going to be erected in 35 stations despite the heavy construction costs.

There are at least 125 subway stations across Tehran, with 300 kilometers of railroad running under the metropolis. More than one million people ride the subway in capital every day.

In the name of God

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT



Brief Notice of International Tender No.9800377

Esfahan Steel Co. intends to purchase 27 Ton Refractory Blocks For Rolling Mill Furnace's Burner through international tender No.9800377.

Prospective bidders specialized and experienced in the said area may visit Esfahan Steel Co.'s Website at www.esfahansteel.ir to get the tender documents no later than 17.June.2020. The place and deadlines for the submission of the offers are as follows:

In Isfahan: Confidential Secretariat of ESCO's Security Department, at the main entrance gate next to Melli Bank, Esfahan Steel Company, 45th km of Zobahan- Shahrekord highway, Esfahan, Iran, telephone No. 0098-31-5257-2197 max. Up to Wednesday dated 12.08.2020 at 1:00 (p.m.);

In Tehran: ESCO's office, near to Shahed Alley, Karim Khane zand Boulevard, Vali-e-Asr Ave. Tehran, Iran. Tel No. 0098-21-8891-5657 max. upto Tuesday dated 11.08.2020 at 1:00 (p.m.);

Email address: toa@esfahansteel.ir the same as item no.2. For further information, prospective bidders may contact us via the following phone No.: +98-31-52572017

Public Relation of Esfahan Steel Co.

Lake Urmia's Revival Saved Regional Environment

URMIA (IP) - The head of Iran's Department of Environment Isa Kalantari stated that Wetlands and lakes are part of the environment, and wherever they dry up, the environment in that area will be in distress.

Isa Kalantari by stressing on the huge impact of Lake Urmia's revival on preserving the environment of the region, noted: “Before Lake Urmia's revival, it had an area of 504,000 hectares, which had reached 160,000 hectares with a density of more than %50salt.”

He added before the revival of Lake Urmia, Tabriz and Urmia cities were surrounded by salt dust, and the region's environment was at risk of particles.

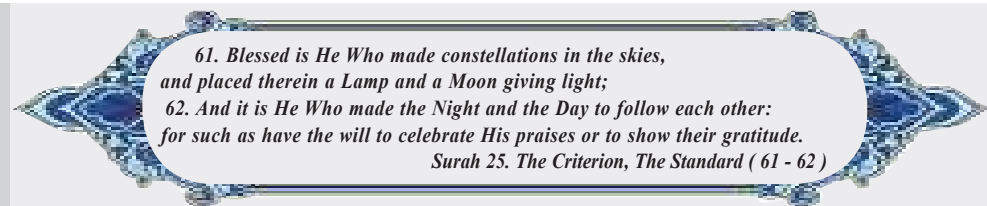
It would cost a thousand billion dollars if it was supposed to evacuate Lake Urmia area due to salt dust, but by reviving Lake Urmia at a cost of 10,000 billion toman, or about 550 million dollars, the problem solved, head of Iran's Department of Environment said.

If Lake Urmia was not revived, the lake's salt dust would float to 450 km, endanger and demolish the environment and wildlife, he concluded.



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	13:03
■ Evening (Maghreb)	20:40
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:01
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	05:48



Iran, Turkmenistan To Boost Trade Ties

TEHRAN (IFP) - Iran and Turkmenistan are to resume the transit of goods as well as trade.

The two countries spoke of the resumption of commercial ties in a ceremony where a new border bridge was put into service in the Iranian town of Sarakhs.

The ceremony held via videoconference was attended by a host of senior officials from both countries.

Present at the ceremony was Iranian Minister of Roads and Transportation Mohammad Eslami, who said the inauguration of the new bridge is a "positive model" for lasting cooperation.

"I'm confident that we can use this achievement to boost economy, trade and commerce, and open up new horizons for development," the minister said in the ceremony.

He said the project will set the stage for the enhancement of cooperation between the two countries and in the whole region with regards to the transportation of goods.

The minister noted the project comes in tandem with the expansion of relations within the framework of infrastructural and development projects of the Economic Cooperation



Organization (ECO) and in keeping with the Ashghabat transit agreement as well as an agreement signed by the Persian Gulf and Silk Road countries.

He said Iran plans to turn Sarakhs into a special economic zone, which amounts to a historic opportunity for absorbing massive investments as well as the promotion of cooperation between the two countries.

MSC, Leading Co. in Capital Market and Production

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

ISFAHAN – A member of board of directors of Mobarakeh Steel Company (MSC) during his visit to the production line of the company said MSC is the leading company in capital market and production in the country.

Mr. Mohammad Zarepour Ashkezari said that the company is the leading one in the capital market and production in the country, adding that fortunately the managers and staff of the company have achieved consecutive records and successes this year which has been named Year of Surge in Production and they signaled good days ahead of the company.

Emphasizing that Mobarakeh Steel Company is a complete chain of steel production, he said God willing with better and efficient performance of the group, the country will materialize its long-term 2025 Outlook Plan.

Zarepour pointed to the hot rolling No.2 unit project of MSC as one of the important issues raised in the board of directors, adding that with implementation of the project, the value of capital market of Mobarakeh Steel and the value chain of Mobarakeh Steel Group will be definitely better than the past, and the company will witness better happenings in the issues of job creation, market value, chain of provision and value chain.

He then expressed his gratitude to all staff and managers on behalf of the board of directors.

Public Participation in Development of Free Zones to Be Boosted

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Secretary of Iran's High Council of Free and Special Economic Zones Morteza Bank and Deputy Minister of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfares Mohammad Jafar Kabiri yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding on boosting the public participation in the economic and social development of free trade and industry zones.

During the meeting, Mr Bank said that justice-oriented economy can be materialized through activities of cooperatives, adding that one of the important segments of the national economy is the cooperative sector which has been raised with a justice-oriented approach and it is considered as an economic current in the world.



He reiterated that development and progress is impossible without social participation, adding launching cooperatives in the free zones can pave the way in its best form for public economic participation in the developmental projects in the

zones based on the cooperative format.

Mr. Bank further said this form of participation, beside its positive effect on the development in the zones, is effective in improving the level of people's livelihood.

He added that setting up of cooperatives and public participation in implementing the projects in the free trade zones has created good ground for the pick-up in domestic production and it is a precious opportunity for the national economic development.

Meanwhile Mr. Kabiri, for his part, said that knowledge-based cooperatives will be launched in the free trade zones, adding that the ministry will support presenting products of cooperatives in the market and announced readiness for ministry with the free trade zone.

The 2020 Program for Tabas Coal Company is Announced

Extraction of 1.5 Million Tons of Coal

Tabas coal mines in Iran, if given sufficient attention, could create sustainable employment in the region for the next 50 years and lead to social and economic development in the region. Undoubtedly, if the government provides proper support in these mines and provides financial and economic facilities, coal can be an important stimulus for the country's economic growth. Also, coal can accelerate the movement of production wheels in the country's mines and related industries in the shadow of comprehensive cooperation and cooperation in the year of production leaps. Tabas city is located in the west of South Khorasan province. Tabas coal basin with an area of more than 30,000 square kilometers and exploratory storage of 2.75 billion tons of coke and heat coal is considered the richest and largest coal region of Iran. The Parvadeh region, with an area of 1,200 square kilometers and a geological reserve of 1.1 billion tons of coking coal, is one of the four coal regions of Tabas and the largest coal-fired coal mine in Iran. "Parvadeh Tabas Coal Company" is one of the companies active in the field of coal production in Tabas region; As the first operator of mechanized coal mines in Iran since 2008, it has started its activities in the Parvadeh region of Tabas and uses new technologies to extract and manage the country's largest coal washing plant to process raw products. It is also a major producer of Iranian coal for the use of the refining and steel industries.

Mineralization is fully mechanized

Ramazan Kriti Thani explained the company's performance and said: "Exploration activities in the region began in the 50's and in the 70's the plan to equip the coal mines of Tabas was defined and started with joint domestic and foreign investment." The goal of the project was to reach an annual production capacity of 1.5 million tons of crude coal and 750,000 tons of concentrate. The executive operation of the mine began in the early 2000s in the number one and central mines of Parvadeh I and was completed in 2007. The company started operating in 2008 with the aim of exploiting the reserves within the scope of the project, as the first operator of the country's fully underground mechanized coal mines. He went on to describe the situation of Iran's coal reserves and said: Most of these reserves are located in Alborz, Kerman and Tabas regions. The total explored reserves of the country in these areas are more than 3 billion and 617 million tons. Parvadeh region is the largest coal-fired power plant in Iran, with an exploration reserve of more than 1.1 billion tons, and has 5 coal layers of 1B, 2B, 1C, 2C and D, which is currently the focus of extraction work on 1C layer. Based on the existing faults, this area is divided into the first, second, third, fourth and eastern protrusions and different

companies are active in these sections. Parvadeh Tabas Coal Company, with a nominal capacity of 1.5 million tons of raw coal annually and producing 750,000 tons of concentrate, operates in an area of 70 square kilometers of Parvadeh and extracts coal in the central mines and number one of this sector. The exploration reserves in the field of mines under the control of this company are about 64 million tons, and the exploitation license has been issued for the extraction of 26.5 million tons of reserves in a period of 16.5 years for Parvadeh Coal Company of Tabas. Emphasizing that we are the first and only fully mechanized underground mining mine and the main producer of coal in the country, the CEO of Parvadeh Tabas Coal Company added: We have produced raw and about 570,000 tons of concentrate. In 2009, in addition to producing raw coal and concentrate, the company has also succeeded in implementing 6632 meters of underground drilling in mines.

"Although Tabas coal is also in demand in the global market," he added. However, domestic demand and the need to support national industries led us to offer 2019 production in the domestic market, including Isfahan Steel Company and Tabas and Kerman collection units. He further emphasized: "By providing equipment resources such as drilling machines, extraction and utilization of Iran's largest coal washing plant, as well as the existence of young and specialized human capital in various sectors, Parvadeh Tabas Coal Company has the necessary ability to make a leap in production." Coal has the country; however, the realization of this important condition depends on the government's support in providing financial resources and support facilities, as well as the cooperation of the mining authorities to provide new coal reserves and resources. Based on this, Parvadeh Coal Company of Tabas is ready to help the development of mechanized mining in the country to increase production and supply of coal for the country's industries. The CEO of Parvadeh Tabas Coal Company stated about the production and employment status of this company: So far, about 2500 opportunities for sustainable employment have been created in this company; In its 11 years of operation, the company has extracted about 9 million tons of raw coal from advanced routes, 7 mechanized algal workshops and semi-mechanized and traditional workshops, and more than 4 million tons of concentrate. According to the plan, the company's coal-fired coal concentrate production will reach about 5 million tons by the end of the extraction of the eighth Lingual Mechanized Workshop, which is currently in operation. At the same time, the planned production of raw coal and concentrate production capacities will be achieved by 1400. Announcing that the coal capacity of Tabas region has not been properly identified and needs further exploration, the CEO of Parvadeh Tabas Coal



Company added: And principled planning has been the center of comprehensive development of the city and the province. It will also have a significant impact on the country's mineral, industrial and economic growth. According to the Supreme Leader's orders, with the theme of the need to replace oil economics, the mine is undoubtedly one of these alternatives.

2020 program and entry into the capital market

Regarding the company's goals and plans for 2020, the CEO of Parvadeh Tabas Coal Company said: "According to the plan, the Parvadeh Tabas Coal Company has extracted more than 1.5 million tons of raw coal, produced 615,000 tons of concentrate and drilled more than 7,800 meters of drilling." It has targeted underground mines. With the implementation of this program, the achievement of the nominal capacity and capacity defined for the first phase of the Tabas coal development project in the extraction of raw coal will be realized. "According to supply policies, as the company's main shareholder, we have been planning to enter the OTC market since last year," said Kriti Thani. In this regard, the approval of the admission board has been received and it is expected that this process will be realized in the coming months. He also pointed to the tax exemptions of the accepted companies, saying that entering the OTC market is undoubtedly another big step in the company's path of excellence, which will ultimately lead to increased transparency, efficiency and improved performance. Also, the entry of the company into this market due to the concentration of capital, is done with the aim of participating in the rights of accepted companies. Reduces development-related costs. Updating the company's true value can draw the attention of a specialist market to the company's future. He announced that we have plans to increase the extraction of raw coal and improve the efficiency of concentrate production, adding: The use of expert consultants in this field to finalize the issue is currently being pursued. To increase the amount and quality of concentrate production, the Spiral project is being implemented in the company's coal washing plant. The plan aims to increase coal processing efficiency and increase production.



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – The CEO of Export Development Bank of Iran (EDBI) believes one way for reducing the inflation is to increase the long-term production.

In an interview, Dr. Ali Akbar Salehabadi talked about different issues like the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on the private sector and problems in front of providing the public budget for government.

On the surge in production and its influence on the national economy and economic factors, Dr. Salehabadi added that he believes the Supreme Leader has chosen the slogan of Surge in Production for this year for two reasons, adding that this slogan is the result of two important phenomenon of complicated sanctions and outbreak of the Coronavirus which have created problems for most of small and medium-sized businesses and even caused them to close down. This turbulence in the business has led to recession in the market and businesses and it has reduced the government's revenues from the tax, he added.

He further said in order to confront this problem and regarding the national economic condition, the country needs a jihadi surge in production in order to compensate and fix the problems in those businesses.

Salehabadi added that to boost production, some measures should be taken and the ground should be paved. He added that minimizing bureaucracy in banking services, guiding the liquidity in the society towards the capital market, promoting e-businesses and creating a safe and competitive climate for businesses are of the factors which will help surge in production.

He said he believes that all capacities in the country should be properly used in materializing the slogan of the year, noting that reducing production cost, avoiding waste of the resources and improving the quality of productions are very important to this end.

Salehabadi added that sanctions have complicated the condition for producers in importing raw material and industrial machineries as they face forex restrictions. But he reiterated that sanctions are also opportunities for the country to use its capacities to boost the economy.

He emphasized that inflation can be controlled and lowered through increasing long-term and sustainable production.

Bail Raised to \$1.25m for Policeman Charged With Floyd Murder

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Bail for the white former Minneapolis police officer charged with murdering African American George Floyd, whose death ignited two weeks of protests, was raised by \$250,000 to \$1.25 million at a hearing on Monday.

Former officer Derek Chauvin, 44, has been charged with second- and third-degree murder and manslaughter in Floyd's May 25 death in Minneapolis by kneeling on his neck for nearly nine minutes.

Chauvin made his first court appearance by video link. He was handcuffed in an orange jumpsuit and sitting at a small table, the Minnesota-based Star Tribune said after the hearing. Access was limited to a small group of reporters.



Four Killed in Second Indian Kashmir Clash in Two Days

SRINAGAR (AFP) - Four suspected rebels were killed by government forces in Indian-administered Kashmir on Monday just hours after five militants died in a firefight in the same area, officials said, as deadly clashes increase in the restive valley.

The fresh clash was followed by the shooting death of an elected village official from India's main opposition Congress party not far from the site of the firefight, which police blamed on the rebels.

Such armed encounters are frequent in the Himalayan region disputed by India and Pakistan, but the fighting has intensified with at least 85 militants and dozens of government forces killed this year.



Europe Moves Ahead With Reopening As Global Virus Cases Top 7m



LONDON (AFP) - European countries experimented with further lifting coronavirus restrictions Monday as New Zealand declared victory over the pandemic, even as global cases topped seven million and deaths mounted in Latin America.

The number of COVID-19 fatalities has now passed 403,000 worldwide since the disease emerged in China last year before sweeping the globe, subjecting billions to some form of lockdown and paralysing economies.

But even the hardest-hit countries are lurching back to a new kind of normal, with bars and restaurants coming back to life and travel restrictions lifted from London to Brussels to Moscow.

But in some places, it was far from business as usual.

Britain on Monday rolled out a 14-day quarantine for all travellers entering the country, prompting uproar from the badly hammered aviation industry which is eager to see travel revived. Pubs and eateries flung their doors open in Belgium, but with social distancing measures in force, while Ireland opened shops and allowed gatherings and travel, also with limits.

New Zealand meanwhile buoyed hopes for the rest of the world as Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern declared that her country had beaten the virus and lifted all restrictions, though strict border controls remain.

The country's measures were lifted after its final coronavirus patient was declared recovered, prompting the leader to dance around her living room in celebration.

"We are confident we have eliminated transmission of the virus in New Zealand for now," Ardern said, adding that Kiwis had "united in unprecedented ways to crush the virus". New Zealand Rugby also announced its top-flight domestic competition would restart this week, with fans allowed to pack into the stadiums for the first time in months.

Governments around the world are cautiously peeling back punishing lockdown measures to resuscitate economies while trying to avoid a resurgence of infections.

Moscow said Monday it would ease border restrictions and lift lockdown measures in the Russian capital from Tuesday, while Ireland said it would permit gatherings of six people and allow citizens to travel up to 20 kilometres (12 miles) from home, an extension from the previous five-kilometre limit.

In Brussels, thirsty patrons lined up in the early morning for a cold beverage at L'Union, eager to drink in a pub again after three months of closures -- much to the relief of manager Bart Lemmens.

"I was a bit worried beforehand," he said, as some 50 people crowded into the pub.

"We work to create a convivial atmosphere. I was afraid we'd lose that. But what happened? We were invaded."

Britain embarked on a more cautious reopening, imposing a two-week quarantine for anyone coming into the country by land, sea or air -- British nationals included -- sparking legal action by airlines.

British Airways and low-cost carriers EasyJet and Ryanair said in a joint statement the measure would devastate tourism and destroy even more jobs.

At London's Heathrow Airport, where only two of the five terminals are operating, the quarantine measures were welcomed by some.

"It's a good idea," said Sandy Banks, 45, returning to Britain with her three children from Jamaica via the United States.

Thousands Pay Tribute to Floyd as Pressure Mounts For Police Reform

HOUSTON (Reuters) - Thousands of mourners braved sweltering Texas heat on Monday to view the casket of George Floyd, whose death after a police officer knelt on his neck ignited worldwide protests against the mistreatment of African Americans and other minorities by U.S. law enforcement.

American flags fluttered along the route to the Fountain of Praise church in Houston, where Floyd grew up, as throngs of mourners wearing face coverings to prevent spread of the coronavirus formed a procession to pay final respects.

Solemnly filing through the church in two parallel lines, some mourners bowed their heads, others made the sign of the cross or raised a fist, as they paused in front of Floyd's open casket. More than 6,300 people took part in the visitation, which ran for more than six hours, church officials said.



North Korea to Cut Communication Lines to South

PYONGYANG (Dispatches) - North Korea is severing all official communication links with the South, it announced Tuesday in a move analysts said was aimed at manufacturing a crisis on the divided peninsula.

Since last week the North has issued a series of vitriolic denunciations of the South over activists sending anti-Pyongyang leaflets over the border -- something defectors do on a regular basis.

Authorities in the North have organized large-scale rallies of citizens across the country in support of their threats, which come with inter-Korean ties at a standstill for months despite three summits between the North's leader Kim Jong Un and the South's President Moon Jae-in in 2018.

The move will cut all official communication links between the two sides, but the immediate effect will be limited -- Pyongyang has refused to engage with Seoul for months, with few if any conversations on the lines aside from test calls.

The latest development comes just three days before the two-year anniversary of a landmark summit between Kim and US President Donald Trump in Singapore.

Negotiations over the North's nuclear program have been deadlocked since the collapse of a second meeting in Hanoi last year over what the North would be willing to give up in exchange for sanctions relief.

The impasse has left Pyongyang increasingly frustrated over the lack of concessions and analysts say it has taken no substantive steps towards giving up its weapons.

It has increasingly turned its anger towards Seoul rather than Washington, carrying out a series of weapons tests and other provocations in recent months -- including last month shooting at a Southern guardpost in the Demilitarized Zone that divides the peninsula.

Pyongyang "will completely cut off and shut down the liaison line" between North and South from noon on Tuesday, the official Korean Central News Agency said, along with military hotlines and a communication link between the headquarters of the North's ruling Workers' Party and the South's presidential office.

NATO Chief Defends U.S. Amid Germany Troop Row

BRUSSELS (AFP) - NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg defended America's military commitment to Europe on Monday, following reports President Donald Trump plans to slash troop numbers in Germany.

Berlin has voiced concern at the proposal reported by U.S. media to cut the 34,500 American military personnel posted in Germany by nearly a third.

The move would significantly reduce the US commitment to European defense under the NATO umbrella, and appeared to catch Berlin off guard.

Asked about the plans, Stoltenberg refused to comment directly on "leaks or media speculation" but said he was "constantly consulting" with Washington on its military presence in Europe.

And -- as he often does when pressed about the Trump administration's ambivalence towards NATO -- Stoltenberg launched into a detailed defense of Washington's commitment to European security.

"In the last few years we have actually seen an increase in the US presence in Europe again," he said.

"And this is not only about Germany. We have seen for instance a new US brigade deployed to Europe, we have seen more rotational presence, we have seen the U.S. taking

a lead function in the NATO battle group in Poland."

Despite transatlantic political tensions, Stoltenberg insisted that NATO allies were "doing more together now in Europe than we have done for many, many years".

Stoltenberg was speaking in an online question-and-answer session to launch an exchange of expert ideas aimed at strengthening the alliance in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

Later Stoltenberg tweeted that he had spoken by phone to Trump on "important security issues".

A NATO official said they "discussed U.S. military posture in Europe, as they always do" but said the call was "long-planned" -- as opposed to being in response to recent events.

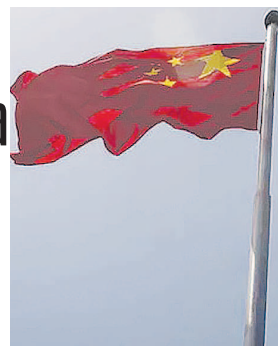
There has been no official confirmation about the reported plan to cut US troop numbers in Germany and cap them at 25,000.

But Trump's lukewarm support for longstanding cooperation agreements with European allies has long caused alarm on the continent.

He has been particularly scathing about Germany, Europe's economic powerhouse, accusing it of not spending enough on its own defense.



China Warns of Racism in Australia



BEIJING (AFP) - Beijing warned Monday there has been "a lot of discrimination" against Chinese people in Australia, escalating a diplomatic row just days after telling its citizens not to travel there.

Tensions between Australia and China have been mounting on a number of fronts, and Beijing reacted with fury to recent calls for an independent investigation into the origins and spread of the coronavirus pandemic after it first emerged in central China late last year.

China stepped up the war of words again last week by telling its citizens to avoid the country altogether over safety concerns.

"Recently, there has been a lot of discrimination against Chinese and Asian people in Australia," said foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying at a regular press briefing Monday.

"Many Chinese in Australia have been insulted or even injured...(and) graffiti or words with racist connotations against Chinese have appeared in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and other Australian cities."

On Friday, China's culture and tourism ministry had advised against travel to Australia due to increasing racism linked to the coronavirus.

Since Australian borders are closed to all non-essential inbound and outbound travellers because of the pandemic -- with no date set for them to reopen -- the advice from Beijing is largely symbolic.

Australian Trade Minister Simon Birmingham told the ABC's Radio National on Monday that there had been racist incidents.

"But I think the idea that Australia, in any way, is an unsafe destination for visitors to come to is one that just does not stand up to scrutiny," he said.

The anti-discrimination commission in New South Wales -- Australia's most populous state -- said last week that there had been an increase in enquiries related to the pandemic and racism against people of Asian backgrounds.

The group said instances included people being bullied for wearing a face mask, spat at and harassed in public on their way to work, while they exercised or at the supermarket.

Farmanieh Apt (\$2000)
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L.balcony
yard, pkg
Fully Furn

Shanon (adviser)

Pasdaran Villa (\$5000)
1000sq.m
5bdrs, S/p, S
J, balcony
marble floor
Fully Furn

Parsian

Elahieh (\$2200) 200sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p, S, J, balcony, F.F
Pasdaran (\$2500) 300sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p, S, J, balcony, F.F
Niavaran (\$1800) 180sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p, S, J, balcony, F.F

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<p>252 sq.m apartments for rent Location: Jordan 3 bdrs , 3 bath On 1st, 2nd and 3rd floor with elevator Fully Furnished 1800 \$ per month</p>	<p>160 sq.m apartment for rent Location: Jordan 3 bdrs, Pool, Sauna, Jacuzzi 7th floor with elevator and parking Fully Furnished 2300 \$ per month</p>	<p>350 sq.m lux apartment for rent Location: Fereshteh Top building in Tehran 4 bdrs , 3 bath, Pool, Sauna, Jacuzzi Fully Fernished 4000 \$ per month</p>

For more Information & Details Call us

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Libya's Largest Oilfield Resumes Production

TRIPOLI (Dispatches) - Libya's El-Sharara oilfield, the country's largest, resumed production on Sunday, the National Oil Corporation (NOC) said.

NOC said the production was resumed after long negotiations.

On Jan. 17, warlord Khalifa Haftar's militia closed Az-Zuwaytainah port, claiming that oil revenues were being used by the internationally-recognized Government of National Accord.

"We hope that resuming production in the El-Sharara field will be the first step to restore life to the oil and gas sector in Libya, and a start to save the economy from collapse," NOC said in a statement.



World Will Suffer Largest Downturn Since 1940s

WASHINGTON (AP) - The World Bank said Monday the world is facing an unprecedented health and economic crisis that has spread with astonishing speed and will result in the largest shock the global economy has witnessed in more than seven decades. Millions of people are expected to be pushed into extreme poverty.

In an updated "Global Economic Prospects," the World Bank projected that global economic activity will shrink by 5.2% this year, the deepest recession since a 13.8% global contraction in 1945-46 at the end of World War II.

The 5.2% downturn this year will be the fourth worst global downturn over the past 150 years, exceeded only by the Great Depression of the 1930s and the periods after World War I and World War II when many of the economies of many war-torn countries were devastated and the United States and other nations demobilized after massive defense buildups.

Because of the steep contraction, the amount of income per person is expected to fall sharply, with more than 90% of emerging market and developing countries seeing per capita incomes declining. For all countries, the drop in per capita incomes is expected to average 6.2%, much larger than the 2.9% fall during the 2009 financial recession.

Reflecting this downward pressure on incomes, World Bank economists said they expected the number of people in extreme poverty could grow by between 70 million and 100 million this year.

The 5.2% estimate for a decline in global output is 7.7 percentage-points more severe than the World Bank's January estimate that the world economy would grow by a modest 2.5% this year.

For the United States, the updated World Bank forecast is for GDP to fall 7% this year, before growing 3.9% in 2021. That estimate is similar to top forecasters for the National Association for Business Economics who forecast a 5.9% drop in for the U.S. this year.

The International Monetary Fund in April projected a drop in global output of 3% this year but it is expected that figure will be lowered when the IMF releases its forecast update in coming weeks.

For China, the world's second largest economy, the World Bank forecast growth will slow this year to a barely discernible 1% but rebound to 6.9% in 2021. For the 19 European countries who use the euro currency, the World Bank projected a drop of 9.1% this year followed by growth of 4% next year.

World Bank economists cautioned that their forecast was based on an assumption that the worst of the coronavirus outbreak was coming to an end and economies would pick up fairly quickly once governments begin to reopen.

If there is a second wave of the virus that disrupts economic activity later this year, then growth this year will fall even farther and the rebound next year will be weaker, the World Bank analysts said.

Oil Major BP to Cut 15% of Workforce

LONDON (Reuters) - BP will cut about 15% of its workforce in response to the coronavirus crisis and as part of Chief Executive Bernard Looney's plan to shift the oil and gas major to renewable energy, it said on Monday.

Looney told employees in a global online call that the London-based company will cut 10,000 jobs from the current 70,100.

"We will now begin a process that will see close to 10,000 people leaving BP - most by the end of this year," Looney said in a statement.

Reuters had earlier reported the planned job cuts, citing three company sources.

BP shares were up 3.3%, against a 2.2% gain for the broader European energy sector.

The affected roles will be mostly senior office-based positions and not front-line operational staff, the company said.

About a fifth of the job cuts will take place in Britain, where BP employs 15,000 people, a company spokesman said.

Like all the world's top energy companies, BP has cut its 2020 spending plans after the coronavirus pandemic brought an unprecedented drop in demand for oil. BP has flagged a 25% cut to \$12 billion this year and said it would find \$2.5 billion in cost savings by the end of 2021 through the digitalisation and integration of its businesses.

On Monday, however, Looney said the company is likely to need to cut costs even further.

BP is giving no pay rises to senior employees until March 2021 and said it is unlikely to pay any cash bonuses this year.

The job reductions are also part of Looney's drive to make the 111-year-old oil company more nimble as it prepares for the shift to low-carbon energy, the sources said.

"It was always part of the plan to make BP a leaner, faster-moving and lower-carbon company," Looney said.

The spokesman said that the coronavirus crisis "amplified and accelerated" BP's transition plans.

Looney last month announced a large round of senior management appointments, halving the size of BP's leadership team under his plan to reshape the company's structure.

Shortly after taking office in February, the 49-year-old CEO said that he was creating 11 divisions to "reinvent" BP and dismantle the traditional structure dominated by its oil and gas production business and its refining, marketing and trading division.

Chevron Corp, the second-largest U.S. oil producer, last month said that it will cut between 10% and 15% of its global workforce as part of an ongoing restructuring.

Japan Economy Better Than Feared But Still in Recession

TOKYO (Dispatches) - Japanese growth figures were better than initially feared in the first quarter, according to official data

published on Monday, but the world's third-top economy was still mired deep in recession.

Gross domestic product contracted by 0.6 percent in the January-March period compared to the previous quarter. Authorities had initially reported a 0.9-percent contraction.

Economists had expected the revision, with the market forecasting a 0.5-percent contraction.

The figures confirmed that Japan was suffering its first recession -- defined as two consecutive quarters of contraction -- since 2015.

A tax hike and typhoons hit Japan hard in the fourth quarter of 2019, sparking a 1.9-percent contraction compared to the previous period -- even before the coronavirus pandemic battered the economy both in Japan and worldwide.

Japan has been hit less hard than most advanced economies by the coronavirus, with just over 17,000 cases in the whole country and around 900 deaths.

However, authorities urged people to stay indoors for several weeks at the height of the outbreak in Japan, which affected the capital and economic powerhouse Tokyo the most.

Most analysts believe that Japan's economy will suffer further in the coming months as the effects of the restrictions on economic activity feed into the figures.

Overfishing on the Rise as Global Consumption Climbs

LONDON (Reuters) - More than a third of the fish stocks around the world are being overfished and the problem is particularly acute in developing countries, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said in a report on Monday.

The FAO said in a biennial report that tackling the issue would require several measures including stronger political will and improved monitoring as fish stocks in areas with less-developed management were in poor shape.

"While developed countries are improving the way they manage their fisheries, developing countries face a worsening situation," the FAO said.

In 2017, 34.2% of the fish stocks of the world's marine fisheries were classified as overfished, a "continuous increasing trend" since 1974 when it stood at just 10%.

Overfishing depletes stocks at a rate that the species cannot replenish and so leads to lower fish populations and reduced future production.

The FAO said less intense management was common in many developing nations and was fuelled partly by limited management and governance capacities.

"We notice that sustainability is particularly difficult in places where hunger, poverty and conflict exist, but there is no alternative to sustainable solutions," the agency said.

Worldwide per capita fish consumption set a new record of 20.5 kg per year in 2018 and has risen by an average rate of 3.1% since 1961, outpacing all other animal proteins.

Fish consumption accounts for a sixth of the global population's intake of animal proteins, and more than half in countries such as Bangladesh, Cambodia, the Gambia, Ghana, Indonesia, Sierra Leone and Sri Lanka.

The FAO projected global per capita consumption would climb to 21.5 kg by 2030, a slowdown in the average annual growth rate to 0.4%, with a decline expected in Africa.

"The main reason for this decline is the growth of Africa's population outpacing the growth in supply. Increasing domestic production and higher fish imports will not be sufficient to meet the region's growing demand," the FAO said.

The report is based on information gathered before the COVID-19 outbreak which has led to a decline in global fishing activity as a result of restrictions and labour shortages due to the health emergency, the FAO said.

Spain Heads for Its Worst Recession on Record



MADRID (Reuters) - Spain's economy may shrink less than feared this year, but the recession will nevertheless be about three times as bad as the record contraction of 2009 at the height of the global financial crisis, the central bank said on Monday.

The economy could contract by 9% to 11.6% in 2020 as the fallout from the coronavirus pandemic hits the tourism-dependent country more than others in Europe, the central bank said regarding what it sees as the most likely case.

The Bank of Spain's previous central scenario was for a 9.5% to 12.4% contraction. Spain's economy shrank by 3.7% in 2009.

The impact of a lockdown that started in mid-March will be fully felt in the second quarter, with a contraction likely around 16% to 21.8%, the central bank said.

The first quarter's 5.2% contraction was already the sharpest drop since the historical series began in 1970 and twice as much as the worst quarter of 2009.

"In the short term, the Spanish economy is going to contract further. It will take a little longer to recover the economic dynamism, but in 2021 the recovery will be a little more intense than in the euro zone average," Oscar Arce, the Bank of Spain's director general for economics, told a news briefing.

The central bank sees the economy starting to recover in the second part of the year, with GDP likely to bounce back in 2021 and grow by 7.7% to 9.1% from a previous estimate by the central bank of 6.1% to 8.5%.

The economic projections come a few days after the European Central Bank said it expected the euro zone to shrink by 8.7% this year in a baseline scenario.

The Spanish central bank also included a more severe and less-likely horizon where the economy could fall by up to 15.1% in 2020 as it cannot rule "more adverse scenarios" due to uncertainty over a hypothetical new wave of coronavirus.

As the world economies are taking on more debt to fight off the consequences from the COVID-19 fallout, both public debt and deficit figures are rising.

The Bank of Spain expected the country's debt-to-GDP ratio to rise up to 119.3% in 2020 and the deficit to grow up to 11.2% this year from 2.8% in 2019.

Belgium to Lose Three Years of Growth Due to Pandemic

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - Belgium's economy is set for three years of lost growth from the COVID-19 pandemic as the 2021-2022 recovery fails to make up for a 9% decline forecast for this year, the country's central bank said on Monday.

Belgium's central bank said gross domestic product in the euro zone's sixth-largest economy would decline 9.0% this year, followed by growth of 6.4% in 2021 and 2.3% in 2022.

Gross domestic product (GDP) at the end of 2022 would be some 4% lower than assumed before the coronavirus struck.

"You need to go back to the World War or the 1930s to see a decline of this nature... What is clear is that it will not be a V-shaped recovery," bank governor Pierre Wunsch told a video news conference.

The bank said that there was likely to be some permanent impact from the crisis - bankruptcies, a shift from temporary to regular unemployment and trade not resuming as before.



Belgian households could rapidly increase consumption as restrictions eased, such as Monday's reopening of bars and restaurants, with state support preventing a decline of income and limiting unemployment.

The bank put the cost of the lockdown from mid-March at 47 billion euros (£42 billion) in terms of lost income.

Wunsch said the reaction to the crisis in terms of economic support meant the economic downturn would not be as in the 1930s. The stimulus was ambitious, but it also needed to be temporary and focused.

Belgium's debt, already at around 100% of GDP, was set to rise to around 120% because of increased public spending and lower growth.

"We are now in the easy part of the crisis, the spending. The difficult part will come when we get to the point when it's time to save."

Iran's Shipment of Medical Aid Arrives in Venezuela

TEHRAN (MNA) – A flight carrying humanitarian aid for the COVID-19 pandemic from Iran arrived in Caracas on Monday.

Venezuela's government said on Monday that a flight carrying humanitarian aid for the COVID-19 epidemic had arrived from Iran.

"Right now, what we are receiving is different types of testing kits," Planning Minister Ricardo Menendez said on state television.

Iran's ambassador to Venezuela, Hojjatollah Soltani, said, "Today we are seeing the arrival of these materials to strengthen Venezuela in its fight against coronavirus."



Europe Wants to Make Its Own Drugs, But It Needs American Blood Plasma

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - Europe wants to be master of its own destiny in producing essential drugs and finding COVID-19 treatments, but it's got a problem. It relies on the United States for a critical ingredient: blood plasma.

As global mistrust deepens, European Union officials are casting around for ways to reduce the bloc's dependence on American plasma, the liquid component of blood used in a host of drugs and now widely applied in COVID-19 experimental therapies.

The coronavirus crisis should push authorities to overhaul Europe's blood donation system, according to some industry players. The United States' steadier plasma supplies are partly due to its system of paying people to donate blood used to develop medicines. In most European countries, donations are unpaid because of safety and ethical reasons.

A strategy for "achieving EU sufficiency" on plasma was discussed at an extraordinary COVID-19 meeting of blood experts organised last week by the European Commission, the EU executive arm, according to the meeting's agenda.

A spokesman for the Commission had no immediate comment about the outcome of the meeting. The EU is setting aside a large budget to increase its pharmaceutical independence. It is now funding a project to manufacture a plasma-derived medicinal product against COVID-19 and has also set up a database to share results of therapies applied in European hospitals.

Plasma has long been used to produce critical medicines such as immunoglobulins and medication that helps control bleeding. The global market for these products is worth about \$20 billion a year and analysts estimate it will grow.

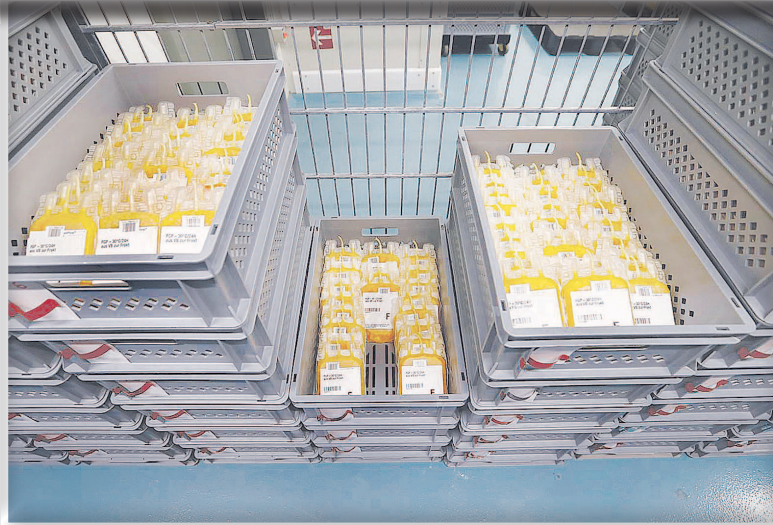
Around 35% of the plasma for medicines needed by about 300,000 Europeans with chronic diseases comes from the United States, according to the Plasma Protein Therapeutics Association (PPTA), a trading body for the biggest manufacturers of plasma-derived therapies.

"This situation exposes European patients to the risk of sudden interruptions of plasma supplies from the U.S.," said an official at the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines and Healthcare, a body that sets quality and ethical standards for drugs in Europe.

The PPTA drugmakers body sees a strategy based on unpaid blood donations as counterproductive. It pointed to Germany, the largest collector of plasma in Europe, as one of the few countries that compensate blood donors.

Standard-setters and plasma collectors, however, want Europe to achieve self-sufficiency by boosting unpaid donations.

The debate around payments is not new; critics point to concerns that it is unethical to pay people for parts of their body, and worries that safety standards could be compromised if companies rely financially on plasma collections. An official from the European Blood Alliance (EBA), which brings together non-profit blood collection institutions across



Europe, said concerns on supplies have increased in recent months as Europe and the United States have vied to acquire essential resources against the virus, including promising vaccines and personal protective gear. [nL8N2BA4IU].

Europe's worries on plasma have also been exacerbated by COVID-19 lockdowns, which have kept many donors away from blood collection centres, the EBA official said.

A Commission official said measures had been taken during the pandemic to "mitigate the risk" of plasma shortages, including a temporary softening of regulatory requirements for blood collection centres.

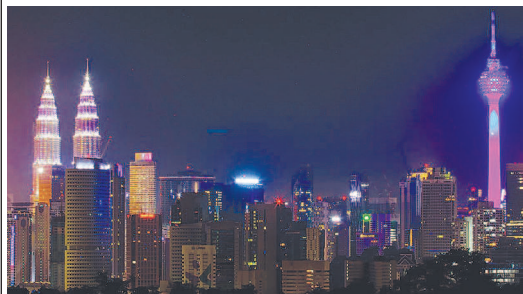
Although no shortages for transfusions were recorded, experts said problems may arise later in the year for supplies of plasma-derived drugs.

The epidemic has boosted demand for unprocessed plasma, as many medics across the world transfuse it directly from COVID-19 survivors to infected people, often with positive results, although its efficacy is still under investigation.

If this so-called convalescent plasma, or a medicine derived from it, prove definitively effective against the disease, that could further strain Europe's supplies, the EDQM official said, adding that a strategy for its collection at industrial scale should be quickly devised.

Convalescent plasma is also being investigated as a possible prophylaxis to prevent COVID-19 infections as antibodies extracted from it could be transfused to boost immunity defences of vulnerable people.

Malaysia's Economic Recovery to Begin End of 2020



KUALA LUMPUR (Bernama) - Malaysia's economy can be expected to be on the recovery path starting from the end of this year and return to growth into 2021, says the World Bank.

Its country manager for Malaysia, Dr Firas Raad, said the country needed to continue with its encouraging and effective public health measures while bringing the economy back to where it was before the Covid-19 pandemic.

He said pro-growth policies, coupled with incentives to push the private sector were crucial ingredients to employ to help the nation recover from the economic downturn.

"The country first needs to continue its effective public health measures to ensure no second wave or the return of the (Covid-19) virus.

"Aside from that, (it must) continue supporting vulnerable households and focus on the firms that need support and recovery, especially the small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and then start to think about the medium-term reform agendas," he said in The Nation programme themed "Economic Recovery Plan (The World Bank Perspective)" on Bernama TV Monday (June 8).

Firas said Malaysia should continue its effort on the reform agendas such as those involving governance, regulatory environment and competition of economic sectors, as well as education reform, in its bid to achieve high-income nation status. "For Malaysia to cross into high-income country status, it will have to boost productivity growth, and that will only come with great investment in human capital," he said.

He added that the World Bank is in the midst of reviewing the economic impact of the Covid-19 outbreak on Malaysia's economy before deciding whether to revise the country's 2020 gross domestic product (GDP) growth target, sometime this month.

The bank in April cut Malaysia's 2020 GDP growth forecast from 4.5% to a negative 0.1%, amid the Covid-19 outbreak.

Business activities in Malaysia are resuming as the country gradually eased the coronavirus lockdown measures after the economic activity froze for almost two months.

India Re-Opens Despite Record Virus Infections

NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - Malls and temples opened across India on Monday after a 10-week lockdown, despite a record daily rise in new cases and predictions that the epidemic will worsen for weeks to come.

The government has risked easing restrictions in a bid to ease the devastating blow to the economy dealt by the coronavirus.

But the number of new cases rose by 9,983 to 256,611, according to government figures announced Monday, putting the country of 1.3 billion on course to quickly overtake Britain and Spain among nations with the highest number of infections.

The reported death toll of 7,135 is lower than other badly-hit countries, but India's epidemic is only expected to peak in July. Many experts say the toll is higher.

In the capital, Delhi, shopping malls, restaurants, temples and mosques re-opened for the first time since March 25.

But highlighting the city's reputation as one of India's worst coronavirus hotspots, one day after announcing the reopening, Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal went into isolation with virus symptoms including a fever.

The worst traffic jams in many weeks were seen in the city of 20 million people. But the public response to being able to shop and pray was tentative. There was



only a trickle of people at most places of worship.

Businessman Mohit Budhiraja, wearing a mask and carrying sanitiser, went to his local temple in eastern Delhi for the first time since the lockdown.

"It felt like something was missing when I couldn't come to the temple for all these weeks," he said. "I hope things improve, but now I will come every day."

Many temples set up sanitisation tunnels at entrances and barred worshippers from bringing offerings.

"People are having their temperature tested twice before they get in," said Ravindra Goel, a trustee of the Jhandewalan temple, one of the oldest in Delhi.

The 400-year-old Jama Masjid mosque, one of the biggest in India, planned only three prayers a day instead of the usual five for Muslims. Worshippers also had to bring their own prayer mats.

Shopping malls also imposed tight checks at entrances and social distancing in stores. Owners acknowledged they would have to wait to see normal business levels return.

"This will last for at least two months, we will just have to rough it out," said Mahendra Singh, owner of a clothes franchise in one mall.

74 More Iranians Die...

FROM PAGE 1

According to him, the average age of the population in Iran is about 31 years. In Spain, the index is 45 years and in Italy, it is 47 years. As you get older, you are more likely to have underlying illnesses, cancers, obesity, and diabetes, which are risk factors for death.

He noted, "Another significant issue is that the country's health care system has made great efforts in recent months in the field of screening and timely identification, quarantine, and treatment. In Iran, we did not have a serious challenge in the field of treatment."

"Both the Pasteur Institute and the Knowledge-Based institutions have come up with vaccine proposals, and Iran, among other countries, has done researches on the Corona vaccine," said a member of the National Committee for Epidemiology. "We hope to be able to acquire the technology for this issue and produce the vaccine, along with other countries, but we are currently in the process of carrying out the research on vaccine production.", the official noted."

WB Expects...

FROM PAGE 1

Based on the WB report, the worst economic performance this year is going to be in the Eurozone. Economic growth in the region by the end of 2020 will fall 9.1 percent. The U.S. economy will also grow negatively by 6.1 percent.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the economic shutdown in advanced economies and other parts of the globe have disrupted billions of lives and are jeopardizing decades of development progress, the bank said.

Based on the report, the pandemic will shrink global GDP by 5.2 percent in 2020, the worst since World War II and nearly three times as steep as the 2009 global recession.

Is Oil Market...

FROM PAGE 1

This rise in CO2 levels is very significant and considerable when most of industrial activities and transportations in the world had almost being halted due to the Coronavirus crisis. Experts in the environmental issues believe that CO2 has a capability which can keep its emission in the atmosphere for hundreds of years; so by 17 percent drop in consumption of fossil fuels in April, one cannot expect reduction in the greenhouse gases.

Regarding the improvement in data related to oil sales and comparative balance in prices, condition of Iran's oil production and exports are still unknown. Some data from think-tanks and secretariats of energy institutes estimate that Iran has continued exporting between 80,000 to 800,000 barrels of oil per day. Before the U.S. pullout from the JCPOA, Iran used to export 2.5 bpd of crude oil. Customers of Iran's oil are currently China, India, Turkey and some unknown purchasers in the spot market.

On sales to China, the latest report from China's General Administration of Customs shows that the country imported 350,000 bpd of Iran's oil in March. What one can definitely say today and in the economic chaos in the world is that the connection of global markets to each other will have overlapping effect, either positive or negative, in the markets, and in the upcoming months it will be totally unpredictable. Can the U.S. be able to improve the economy and push the production towards a comparative stability through its suppressing method during the protests on the racism? Will effects of lockdown in important sectors of Europe's economy can be rebuilt? The International Monetary Fund (IMF) in response to these questions predicts a negative economic growth for the world between 2.5 to 7 percent and this is the indicator for a gloomy outlook, even if today the oil market moves towards the temporary target of interaction.



People Contributing...

FROM PAGE 1

He said the stock exchange is flourishing with people's well-managed contribution at a time when the nation is gripped by the coronavirus.

The president urged the High Stock Exchange Council as well as the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs to give fresh impetus to trade in real estate shares and bonds. Rouhani stated that the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance and the Exchange Organization should accurately determine the management aspects of these stocks, adding, "Informing and educating people about ownership and interaction in this field, including transfer, holding and information is very important".

The president described the transfer of Justice Shares to shareholders as a major step in economic transfers, adding, "Both in terms of the volume of shares and the number of shareholders, which includes more than 49 million people, it is very important to promote people's role in the economy".

Rouhani pointed out that people naturally have many questions and ambiguities about how to manage or sell their shares, adding, "The officials of the stock exchange organization should be careful that calmness in the stock market and in the eyes of the people has a great impact on the prosperity of the capital market."

Rouhani said that the capital market should strengthen a transparent and healthy economy by relying on the release and strengthening of Justice Shares, adding, "I emphasize to all relevant officials to take the necessary care of this market."

The president added, "The system, which has been set up to inform the public directly about developments and events related to Justice Shares, can be a source of confidence for both shareholders and managers of major investment companies while answering ambiguities and questions".

Rouhani stated that in handing over the Justice Shares to their owners, we have explicitly announced to the people that the government no longer has the power to control their wealth and shares, adding, "In the case of Justice Shares, they are fully owned by the people and they are able to decide on how to exercise their proprietary rights, although the government recommends holders not to sell their shares and take advantage of its long-term benefits." Emphasizing the need to strengthen and deepen the capital market, Rouhani called on the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance and the Supreme Council of the Stock Exchange to make efforts and speed up the implementation of the real estate exchange.

Rouhani stated that we have repeatedly emphasized that while we are strongly fighting US economic terrorism and the fight against sanctions, we have not forgotten the development and progress of the country, adding, "The development of infrastructure is always one of the main activities of the government." The President added, "Development of communication infrastructure is one of the great measures of the Government of Prudence and Hope for the realization of development in the country and at the same time an important step towards the realization of accurate and desirable governance."

Birmingham Boss Clotet To Leave at End of Season

LONDON (Dispatches) - Birmingham boss Pep Clotet will leave the Championship club at the end of this season after only a year in charge.

Clotet joined Birmingham as assistant to Garry Monk in March 2018 before replacing him as manager in June last year.

The 43-year-old Spaniard was initially given the job in a caretaker role before being appointed on a permanent basis in December.

The club said in a statement that they had "agreed to allow the 43-year-old to explore other coaching opportunities."

LICENCE HOLDER: SOKHAN GOSTAR INSTITUTE

Switchboard:

(+98) (21) 44253448

Public Relations Tel:

(+98)(21) 44253450

Editorial Board: 44253449

Public Relations Fax:

(+98)(21) 44253395

Advertising Department:

Tel/Fax:(+98) (21) 44253335-9/44253234

Website:

http://www.irannewsdaily.com

E-Mail Address:

info@irannewsdaily.com

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Man Utd Bid €100m for Ansu Fati

LONDON (Dispatches) - Manchester United have made a £100m offer for Barcelona whizkid Ansu Fati.

It emerged last week that Barca president Josep Maria Bartomeu, during a video call with board members, had announced they'd received - and rejected - a €100m offer for Fati in recent days.

And Sport says the prime candidate to have tabled that offer is United.

The Premier League giants are aware of Fati's playing frustrations and were prepared to drop their interest in Borussia Dortmund whiz Jadon Sancho to focus on the Spanish youngster.

8 IRAN NEWS

SPORTS

WEDNESDAY JUNE 10, 2020

Barcelona and Real Madrid Renew Close-Run Title Race

BARCELONA (Reuters) - Barcelona and Real Madrid resume one of the tightest title races in recent memory when La Liga kicks back into action this week in empty stadiums, after a three-month pause due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Just before the season was postponed on March 10, former Real great Jorge Valdano had likened the two teams' inconsistent form to a race between two limping men, but both sides are set to be refreshed and stronger after the long break.

Barca are boosted by the return of Luis Suarez from a knee injury that looked set to rule him out for the season, and his aggression and power should help them ease their problems in breaking down sides.

Real will again enjoy the services of Eden Hazard after he was sidelined with a fractured ankle in February. Also back is Spain forward Marcos Asensio, who should ease the burden on Karim Benzema, their runaway leading scorer with 14 strikes. Barca, targeting a third consecutive Spanish title, led Real by two points when the season was postponed.

The break has also given their ageing squad some much-needed rest, while the extra time on the training ground should help them further adapt to the ideas of coach Quique Setien, who succeeded Ernesto Valverde in January.

With no fans allowed into venues and Real playing their home games at the 6,000-capacity Alfredo Di Stefano stadium while the Santiago Bernabeu is being refurbished, it will be a title race unlike any other.

Sydney Makes Surprise Bid for Fury-Wilder Rematch

SYDNEY (Dispatches) - Australian city Sydney has made an audacious bid to host a blockbuster heavyweight rematch between Tyson Fury and Deontay Wilder, with promoters eyeing Boxing Day for the trilogy superfight.

Promoter Dean Lonergan has tentatively booked Bankwest Stadium in the city's west for the bout, The Australian reported Monday. Semi-autonomous Chinese city Macau is also in the running.

"I put a proposal to (Top Rank promoter) Bob Arum about six weeks ago by way of email to bring down here the world heavyweight title fight between Deontay Wilder and Tyson Fury," Lonergan told the newspaper.

"The day I suggested was December 26 here so we would (broadcast) to the USA on Christmas night."

Lonergan wasn't immediately available to confirm the comments. Following a controversial draw in December 2018, Britain's Fury, unbeaten as a professional, overpowered American Wilder in Las Vegas in February, beating him in seven rounds.

Wilder has activated the rematch clause in his contract, with a time yet to be fixed after the original date of July 18 was scrapped because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Arum confirmed in a Sky Sports interview at the weekend that Sydney was in the mix, along with Macau. Both cities have got on top of COVID-19, and appear more likely to allow fans than the US or Britain.

Las Vegas could still host the fight if spectators are allowed back into venues.

"Our friends in Australia are talking about doing this fight, probably in Sydney. That's a possibility," said Arum, who previously promoted ring great Manny's Pacquiao's bout against Australian Jeff Horn in Brisbane.

"There are six big casino properties in Macau," he added. "We've talked to them. They're ready to put up money for the Fury fight against Wilder in November or December."

Lonergan said Boxing Day would be symbolic, marking 108 years to the day since African-American Jack Johnson was crowned the first black heavyweight champion by beating Tommy Burns in a world title bout in Sydney.

"We will miss that boost and support you get from the crowd, who have a huge influence," said Setien.

Barca have a slightly more comfortable run-in in their remaining 11 fixtures in the space of five weeks, with home games against Athletic Bilbao and Atletico Madrid plus trips to Sevilla and Villarreal looking like their toughest games.

Real, who beat Barca in March only to blow their lead at the top by losing to Real Betis, have five potentially tricky fixtures: Valencia, Getafe and Villarreal at home, plus trips to Real Sociedad and Athletic Bilbao.

"It would be strange to say we are worse than Barca after we beat them just before we went into confinement," said Real goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois.

"Even though we then lost to Betis, I think we're in good shape. We're all really excited about starting the league season again and fighting for the championship and winning it."

Meanwhile Lionel Messi will be fit to play in Barcelona's first game back against Real Mallorca, despite some "minor tightness" in his right thigh, coach Quique Setien said.



Messi trained alone on Saturday at Camp Nou after sitting out the team's previous two sessions, raising doubts over his involvement in the trip to Mallorca on Saturday.

But when asked whether Messi would be able to play next weekend, Setien told Movistar on Sunday: "Messi is not the only one that has not trained and felt some discomfort."

"It's what has happened to everyone or practically everyone since they have been back."

"It is some minor tightness and we have it under control. He is doing perfectly and will not have any problem."



Evans Dismisses Djokovic's U.S. Open Concerns

LONDON (Reuters) - Britain's Dan Evans believes Novak Djokovic's concerns about players having only one member of their support staff at the U.S. Open does not apply to the majority of the field and compromises should be made when action resumes.

The U.S. Open organisers are assessing safety measures for the tournament scheduled to begin on Aug. 31 without spectators after the COVID-19 pandemic stalled the season in March.

World number one Djokovic said hosting the tournament would be impossible due to "extreme" COVID-19 protocols, but Evans said there has to be some "give and take" from the players.

"I don't think having one person of your team only allowed is such a big deal - the majority of the draw would only travel with one coach," Evans told BBC 5 Live.

"Not everyone's travelling with physios and fitness trainers like Novak said, so I think his argument there is not really valid for the rest of the draw, apart from the real top guys."

The U.S. Open will be the first Grand Slam to be played after the novel coronavirus outbreak, and will be followed by the French Open which was moved to September.

Defending champion Rafa Nadal is also not keen on travelling to New York, one of the cities hardest hit by coronavirus, in present circumstances.

But Evans has urged both Nadal and Djokovic to take part in the event in order to help lower-ranked professionals in financial crisis due to the shutdown.

"This is the point where I think the players should really come together and Novak and Rafa should really be looking to help those players with lower ranks so they get a good pay day," Evans added.

F1 Extends Contracts for Some Closed-Race Circuits

LONDON (Reuters) - Some of the European circuits due to host races without spectators on Formula One's initial 2020 calendar have been given one-year contract extensions to compensate for lost revenues, it emerged on Friday.

Organizers of the Hungarian, Italian and Belgian Grands Prix, which stand to lose out on tickets sales, revealed new deals.

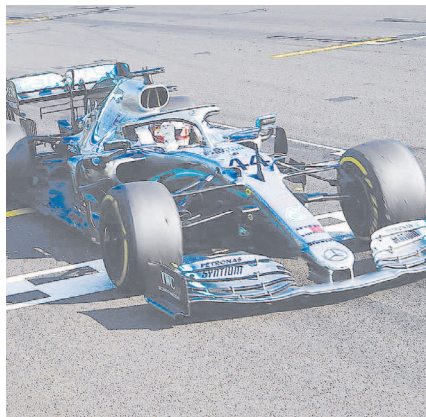
Formula One, whose season has yet to start due to the COVID-19 pandemic, announced an eight-round schedule on Tuesday with the season starting in Austria on July 5.

Austria's Red Bull Ring and Britain's Silverstone will both have two races each with Hungary, Spain, Belgium and Italy hosting the remainder.

"We did our best during the discussions to get a good agreement both for the country and the sport even in these challenging times," Hungaroring CEO Zsolt Gyulay told the http://www.hungaroring.hu website.

"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."

Hungary is set to be the third race of a shortened season on July 19, after Austria's two. Gyulay said the annual increase of the rights fee had also been reduced.



Racism Only Disease Right Now

LONDON (Dispatches) - Manchester City and England footballer Raheem Sterling on Sunday insisted that racism is "the only disease right now".

The 25-year-old, who has often and powerfully spoken out on discrimination, admitted his remarks may appear ill-chosen as the globe fights the coronavirus pandemic.

"I know this might sound a little bit cheesy but the only disease right now is the racism that we are fighting," said Sterling in a BBC TV interview to be broadcast on Monday.

Sterling is the latest sports star to voice support for protests against racism in the United States and across the world following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis last month.

"This is the most important thing at this moment in time because this is something that is happening for years and years. Just like the pandemic, we want to find a solution to stop it," he added.

"At the same time, this is what all these protesters are doing. They are trying to find a solution and a way to stop the injustice they are seeing, and they are fighting for their cause."

"As long as they are doing it peacefully and safely and not hurting anybody and not breaking into any stores, they continue to protest in this peaceful way."

Sterling has previously been prominent in calling out racism in both the domestic and international game.

