

Romania Says Autopsy Findings Indicate That the Fugitive Former Iranian Judge Gholamreza Mansouri, Whose Body Was Found At a Hotel in Bucharest Last Week, Died of the Impact From a Fall

# IRAN NEWS

Spokesman for Iran's Mission to UN Says the Maximum Pressure Policy By the U.S. Against Iran With the Aim of Putting Pressure on Its People, Adding Iran Will Never Negotiate Its Legitimate National Interests

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U.S. Unilateralism Poses Serious Threat to Int'l Peace, Security



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## DOMESTIC

90% of Iran's Trade Is Done by Sea

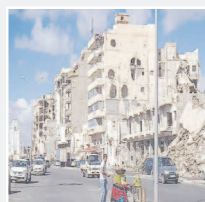


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Murray Takes a Knee In Support of Black Lives Matter Movement



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## President Repeats Demand for U.S. to Apologize Before Any Talks

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN – President Hassan Rouhani has repeated a previous demand that the United States should apologize, return to the 2015 nuclear agreement and compensate Iran for economic losses, before Tehran negotiates over outstanding issues.

Rouhani who was speaking at his cabinet meeting on Wednesday, dismissed Trump's repeated offers of unconditional talks as ingenuine, saying "we know these calls for talks with Tehran are just words and lies."

"We have no problem with talks with the U.S., but only if Washington fulfills its obligations under the nuclear deal, apologies and compensates Tehran for its withdrawal from the 2015 deal," Rouhani said.

"The Europeans have failed to fulfil their promises. They should carry out their obligations," Rouhani said.

The President stressed the importance of maintaining the reputation and status of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for the sake of the international community and stressed, "The basis of Iran's work is cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency, but the Agency must maintain its independence and do not deviate from its legal path under the United States and the Zionist Regime's pressures."

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## Record-High Number of Daily COVID-19 Deaths Reported

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran's Health Ministry spokeswoman says 133 patients have died of the novel coronavirus in the past 24 hours, increasing the overall death toll to 9,996.

The number of new COVID-19 deaths reported on Wednesday is the highest figure since April 8.

In her press briefing, Sima-Sadat Lari also confirmed 2,531 new cases of COVID-19 infection, increasing the total number of infections to 212,501.

According to the spokeswoman, 172,096 patients have so far recovered from COVID-19, but 2,869 are still in severe conditions of the disease.

She said so far 1,502,525 COVID-19 tests have been taken across the country. According to Lari, there has been no decrease in the number of new cases hospitalized in Khuzestan, Kurdistan, Hormozgan and Bushehr provinces, and some parts of Fars, Lorestan, Kermanshah, and Golestan provinces.

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## Iran Buys Goods in Exchange For Exporting Energy to Iraq



TEHRAN (ILNA) - U.S sanctions on Iran are worse than Oil-for-Food program, a spokesman of the Iranian Oil, Gas and Petrochemical Products Exporters' Union told.

Seyed Hamid Hosseini pointed to the recent agreement between Iran and Iraq and said "It was agreed that Iran to purchase its needed items and that the Iraqi bank would pay for them from Iran's financial resources in this country.

"Iran will be using its resources in Iraq to buy non-sanctioned and basic commodities so that the country's bank does not get into trouble," he confirmed

The Iranian official stressed the "Oil-for-Food program was intended to allow the embargoed country to sell oil on the world market in exchange for food, but the United States has done worse than Iran and seeks to reduce Iran's oil exports to zero."

"The Iraqi side has announced that it will pay for any goods we buy from any country, whether European or Asian. Those goods enter Iran directly and the cargo is not going to go to Iraq."

After the trip to Iraq on June 17, the Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) wrote about his eight-hour trip to Iraq by posting on Instagram: "Today's (Wednesday) talks on how to implement the memorandum and use the CBI's resources to buy basic goods and medicine have yielded good results."

He continued "Last year, we signed a good agreement on how to use the sources of gas and electricity exports to Iraq. However, due to some problems, the memorandum was not fully operational." He announced that Baghdad had agreed to settle its gas and electricity-related debts to Tehran by providing food and medicine to Iran.

Iraqi Prime Minister Al-Kazemi also said that we have a full agreement with Iran on how to solve the problems of money transfer through supplying food and basic goods and that we will cooperate. In addition, Iraqi businessmen are interested in cooperating, and I have personally ordered that the problems related to Iran's payment to be resolved.

## Russia Holds Massive Military Parade in Moscow

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russia has held a massive military parade in Moscow to celebrate its annual Victory Day, on the eve of a national referendum on extending President Vladimir Putin's time in office.

The parade, marking the 75th anniversary of the Soviet Union's World War Two victory over Nazi Germany, had to be rescheduled from its original date on May 9 due to the new coronavirus outbreak.

It kicked off in Moscow's Red Square on Wednesday, with the participation of an estimated 14,000 Russian troops, as well as tanks and aircraft.

Under coronavirus-related restrictions, access to Red Square and the president was limited, however. Journalists have been limited to a press center, and visiting participants were quarantined before the event.

Dozens of World War II veterans, who are now more than 90 years, were also sequestered in sanatoriums outside of Moscow for two weeks before the event.

"They are in wonderful conditions there," a Kremlin spokesman said.

Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyenin called on people to avoid crowding the streets to catch sight of the passing military hardware and "watch it on television."

"There shouldn't be any crowds, there shouldn't be spectators there," he said.

Foreign leaders, including Chinese President Xi Jinping and French President Emmanuel Macron, who had been invited to the event, have canceled their attendance due to the epidemic.

More than a dozen large cities have also canceled parades or will hold them without any crowds.

Russia reported 7,425 new infections on Tuesday, taking the total reported cases of COVID-19 in the country to 598,878. There have been 8,359 confirmed deaths related to the disease countrywide.

A national vote on the country's constitution was suspended on April 22 due to the outbreak. It will now be held online from June 25 until July 1.

The changes would allow President Putin two more six-year terms if re-elected.

Under the current constitution, Putin is banned from seeking re-election when his mandate ends in 2024.

Some 67-71 percent of the voters are expected to endorse the change, according to the Russian Public Opinion Research Center (VTsIOM).

## Iran's Relationship With UAE Improving

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN — Major General Yahya Rahim Safavi, a top military advisor to the Leader, has said Iran's relationship with the UAE has improved and the Islamic Republic is ready for dialogue with Saudi Arabia.

"Our relationship with the UAE has improved and Abu Dhabi's attitudes towards us have changed," the Middle East Monitor on Tuesday quoted Rahim Safavi as saying, citing Al Jazeera.

He also said, "[We] are ready for dialogue with Saudi Arabia without preconditions if they agree to this."

"Riyadh must admit the failure of its war in Yemen and adopt a new policy ... What is happening in Yemen is the futile military chaos that Saudi Arabia bears firstly," he added.

Iran and Saudi Arabia have been at loggerheads over a number of issues including the Saudi war on Yemen and Riyadh's support for Donald Trump's anti-Iran moves.

Saudi Arabia launched a military campaign against Yemen in March 2015 with the aim of eliminating the Yemeni opposition groups who had toppled the government of President Mansour Hadi.

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## Zarif: Pompeo So Desperate to Mislead World on Iran

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has ridiculed his U.S. counterpart for his erroneous estimates of the Iranian Air Force's reach in Europe and Asia when the UN arms embargo against Tehran expires, saying this shows Mike Pompeo is desperately attempting to mislead the world about Iran.

The U.S. secretary of state tweeted a map on Tuesday, in which he said not only would Iran buy warplanes upon removal of the embargo in October, but it would also be able to deploy the aircraft to places that would require them to max out their fuel, without taking into consideration the logical flaws in his claim.

"If the @UN Arms Embargo on Iran expires in October, Iran will be able to buy new fighter aircraft like Russia's SU-30 and China's J-10. With these highly lethal aircraft, Europe and Asia could be in Iran's crosshairs," Pompeo wrote.

In response, Zarif posted a picture of the same map's legend on his Twitter page, which explained the given ranges were maximum distances during a "one-way flight only."

Mocking the flaw, Zarif said "@SecPompeo is so desperate to mislead the world that he claims come October, Iran will purchase fighter aircraft. And then send them off to the limits of their ONE-WAY ranges."

"Perhaps he could also say how they would fly back to Iran having exhausted their fuel," added Zarif and tagged the tweet with #shameless.

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## Unfounded Spy Data No Grounds for IAEA's Demand

TEHRAN (IFP) - The Iranian parliament says unsubstantiated spy data cannot be a basis for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)'s demands to access Iranian sites.

That came in a statement issued by the Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission in reaction to the resolution adopted by the IAEA's Board of Governors against Iran.

The full text of the resolution follows.

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful The IAEA's Board of Governors committed a grave mistake by issuing its politically charged and nonprofessional resolution against the Islamic Republic of Iran's peaceful nuclear program on June 19, 2020, a resolution which lacks any legal and technical grounds.

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## Iran Incessantly Monitoring Enemies' Movements

TEHRAN (MNA) – The unknown soldiers of Imam Zaman [May God Hasten His Reappearance] are thoroughly monitoring the malicious movements of criminal imperialist, usurper regime of Israel and sworn enemies of the country incessantly.

Minister of Intelligence Hojjatoleslam Mahmoud Alavi in a message on the occasion of Judiciary Week,

which marks the martyrdom anniversary of Shahid Beheshti, said, “7th of Tir [June 27] is the reminiscence of the name and memory of Ayatollah Shahid Beheshti who was martyred on June 28, 1981 as a result of the explosion of a bomb planted by the terrorist MKO agents in the headquarters of the Islamic Republic Party.”

## U.S. Unilateralism Poses Serious Threat to Int'l Peace, Security

*IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK*

**TEHRAN – Majlis Speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf called the unilateral behavior of the U.S. a serious threat to international peace and security and stressed the need for regional and international cooperation to counter the irrational actions of the White House.**

He made the remarks on Wednesday at a meeting with Chinese Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran Chang Hua noting, “Iran- China ties are stable, strong and historic, and especially after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, relations between the two countries expanded.”

Emphasizing the need to expand the interaction between the two countries, he said: “Countries around the world, including Iran and China, are facing the arrogant and unilateral nature of the US and its adverse effects on the rights of nations at the national, regional and international levels.”

Qalibaf strongly condemned the interference of the U.S. and some other countries in China’s internal affairs and thanked the Chinese government for its clear opposition regarding the IAEA’s resolution against the Islamic Republic.



Chang Hua also maintained that China seeks to expand bilateral ties with Iran and added, “The two countries must support each other on important issues and common interests, As the Chinese side strongly supported Iran’s sovereignty and independence and opposed US unilateral sanctions.”

“Western countries, especially the US, have been putting pressure on Iran and China for years seemingly for human rights, however, we have always stood by each other and expressed our disgust at the interference of foreign countries and unilateralism,” Chinese Ambassador added.

## Israeli Regime Facing Collapse From Within

TEHRAN (MNA) – Majlis Speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf said that the Israeli regime is declining while pointing to the need for continuing resistance against the occupation.

“The fake Zionist regime is facing the crisis of collapse to a point that the criminal prime minister of this regime is seeing an internal crisis for months regarding establishing its occupying cabinet,” Qalibaf said on Wednesday in a meeting with Palestinian Ambassador to Tehran Salah Al Zawawi.

The issue of Palestine, the Iranian lawmaker continued, is the issue of Islam before being a political one. Imam Khomeini and his companions were concerned about Palestine even before the Islamic Revolution, he said, adding that after the victory in 1979, the issue became more important for Iranians.

Qalibaf highlighted the need for keeping efforts in the path of resistance.

“The Zionist regime was assuming that the generation of Palestinians would forget their land and history but after seven decades of occupation of Palestinian territories, the youth of this country have become more determined in maintaining values and aims of their country.”

Supporting Palestine is a principal policy of the Islamic Republic, he said, adding that with God’s grace, the future is bright and resistance will continue till the ultimate victory. For his part, the Palestinian ambassador congratulated Qalibaf on his election as the speaker of the Iranian Parliament.

He went on to say that the Israeli regime was planning to expand its occupation to regions in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Saudi Arabia but Imam Khomeini prevented the realization of those aims.

The U.S. and the Israeli regime are seeking to prevent unity among the Islamic countries, Al-Zawawi said while also noting that the Israeli regime’s decline is certain.

## Iran to Cut Dependence on Hormuz Strait for Oil Exports

TEHRAN (IFP) - The Iranian president says Iran is building a major pipeline to transferring oil from west of the Persian Gulf to its east, cutting dependence on Hormuz Strait for oil exports.

President Hassan Rouhani on Tuesday described the pipeline project as a major and significant national program.

“We are doing a colossal job; it is a major pipeline; the project is already underway; the pipeline will run all the way from Goreh to Jask. It is a 1,000-kilometre pipeline,” he said.

The president underlined Iran will not depend on the Strait of Hormuz for its petroleum exports anymore.

“Our oil exports will no longer be only dependent on the Starit of Hormuz. This is the first time in Iran’s history that such a thing is being done,” he noted.

“Once I had gone to visit the Leader, who told me ‘this is the most strategic work that your administration is doing,’ President Rouhani added.

“It is a project where our oil is being transferred via a 1,000-kilometre pipeline to Jask from where it will be taken to the Sea of Oman. This is a major and significant and unique work being done for the first time in Iran’s history,” he said.

## Iran, UN Express Concern Over U.S. Caesar Sanctions on Syria

TEHRAN (IFP) - The United Nations Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for Syria Geir O. Pedersen and Ali-Asghar Khaji, a senior assistant to Iranian Foreign Minister in special political affairs, have discussed the latest developments in Syria.

In a telephone conversation on Wednesday, Pedersen and Khaji discussed the latest political and on-the-ground developments in Syria, an upcoming virtual summit of the Astana Process guarantor states, the next meeting of Syria’s Constitutional Committee, the latest situation in Idlib and southern Syria, as well as the economic conditions and the problems that sanctions have caused for the people of Syria.

The Iranian and the UN diplomats deplored the extremely worrying consequences of the unilateral economic sanctions for the life of Syrian people, and stressed the necessity of increasing humanitarian assistance to counter the sanctions and proceeding with the political process for the peaceful settlement of the Syrian issue. In the telephone conversation, the senior assistant to Iran’s foreign minister condemned the illegal and inhumane sanctions imposed by the U.S., calling for the removal of the bans.

Khaji also noted that the new U.S. sanctions, known as the Caesar Act, have been imposed with the purpose of putting pressure on the Syrian people and pursuing the U.S.’ illegitimate objectives by resorting to economic terrorism, stressing that such hostile measures could not undermine the Syrian people and their allies’ determination to continue supports for that country’s people and legitimate government.

## Tehran, Oslo Discuss Developing Bilateral Ties

TEHRAN (IRNA) - New Iranian Ambassador to Norway Alireza Yousefi in a meeting with King Harald V of Norway reviewed promoting bilateral ties between Tehran and Oslo.

Yousefi on Monday submitted his credentials to King of Norway.

The Newly-appointed ambassador also conveyed Iranian President Hassan Rouhani’s greeting to Norwegian King.

Thanks to the good capacities of the two countries, it is possible to promote relations in different fields, he added.

He also presented a report of the measures taken in line with controlling coronavirus outbreak amid US sanctions against Iran.

Meanwhile, Harald V of Norway expressed hope for boosting Iran-Norway relations through interactions between officials.

## Iran Working Hard To Develop Vaccine For COVID-19



TEHRAN (IFP) - The Iranian health minister says Iran has begun extensive work on vaccines related to the COVID-19 virus, and people will soon hear good news in this regard.

Saeid Namki said on Wednesday that two prominent teams at knowledge-based companies are working in that domain.

“We have made good progress, but it is still too early to unveil our work. In the coming days, good news will be announced about a vaccine for coronavirus,” said the minister.

Meanwhile, he underlined that no definitive vaccine has been developed for the disease yet. “So far, no specific drug has been discovered for COVID-19, and the world is working on finding a vaccine,” he said.

He also touched upon the fee charged for the coronavirus test. “Individuals should get into the health ministry’s network to take the test; in that case, they won’t be charged,” he said.

“In fact, those we deem necessary to be tested as the target group won’t be charged, but if someone wants to take the test on his own, they can go to private laboratories which do the test based on officially approved fees,” he added.

## Iran to Threaten Enemy’s Interests If Threatened

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Iran’s Army Commander Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi warned the enemies that any threat to the country’s national interests will result in reciprocal threats to their own interests.

Speaking at a military gathering on Wednesday, the Army commander said Iran will reciprocally threaten the interests of any enemy that dares to threaten the Islamic Republic’s national interests.

He also said that the Army has prepared “practical schemes for the possible scenarios” and is practicing those plans overtly or covertly, separately or in combination.

Highlighting the close interaction and coordination between the Army and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the general said, “The Army and the IRGC are prepared to combat any possible threat together.”

He further unveiled plans to furnish the Army, Navy, Air Force and Air Defense with new equipment by the end of the current Iranian year (March 2021).

## IAEA BoG Made a Strategic Mistake Toward Iran

TEHRAN (MNA) – Deputy Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) for Political Affairs warned that the “strategic mistake” by the International Atomic Energy Agency’s Board of Governors will undermine Iran’s cooperation with the nuclear body.

“The International Atomic Energy Agency made a strategic mistake by its recent decision over an anti-Iran resolution; this will challenge [Iran’s] cooperation with the Agency,” Brigadier General Rasoul Sanaei-Rad said.

“The three European countries that failed to fulfill their commitments to the nuclear deal (JCPOA) as well their pledges after the US’ withdrawal from the deal, have now voted to pass an anti-Iran resolution based on the fake claims of the US and the Israeli regime,” the general said.

He added that “the IAEA’s new resolution is inconsistent with the former legal principles and practices of the international atomic body, which not only has questioned the dignity of the European parties to the JCPOA, but it also has made a negative impact on the future of Tehran’s cooperation with the IAEA.”

On Friday, June 19, the International Atomic Energy Agency’s Board of Governors adopted a resolution drafted by the UK, France and Germany calling on Iran to grant the IAEA access to two locations amid allegations of undeclared nuclear activities.

## Japan Ready to Reinforce Parliamentary Ties With Iran

BEIJING (IRNA) - Speaker of the House of Representatives of Japan Tadamori Oshima and President of the House of Councillors of Japan Akiko Santo expressed readiness for developing parliamentary cooperation with Iran.

In their messages, Japanese officials congratulated Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf on his election as Speaker of the Iranian Parliament (Majlis).

Japanese speakers wished success for Qalibaf.

The Iranian MPs elected Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf as the speaker for the first year of the new Parliament.

Qalibaf secured 230 votes out of a total of 264 cast to become parliament speaker.

## Iran Takes National Security Seriously

TEHRAN (IP) - Iran’s Commander of Ground Forces of Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Brigadier General Mohammad Pakpour said that those states which are against Iran’s revolution and their allies have recognized that the Islamic Republic of Iran takes national security seriously.

Pakpour, commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) ground forces, on Tuesday at the beginning of the final phase of the exercise ‘Authority of the Kurdish Muslim Martyrs’ in western Iran said: “Wherever terrorists are present, organized and deployed, they will be attacked.”

Iran’s top IRGC commander stated that the exercise area was connected to the border of the Iraqi Kurdistan region and some terrorists may use this geographical position and be present in this area, adding that targeting terrorist hideouts and headquarters surrounding the exercise with the aim of clearing the region of the terrorists and villains is one of the goals of the ‘Muslim Kurdish Martyrs Authority’ exercise.

Explaining the goals set for the exercise, Pakpour added, “Assessing the ability of tactical commanders, improving unit coordination, and operationalizing training are other objectives of this exercise.”

The exercise is one of the annual exercises of the IRGC’s ground forces in the northwest, west, and southeast of the country, which is being held in the general area of Kurdistan.





## PRAYER TIME

|                          |       |
|--------------------------|-------|
| ■ Noon (Zohr)            | 13:07 |
| ■ Evening (Maghreb)      | 20:45 |
| ■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr) | 04:04 |
| ■ Tomorrow's Sunrise     | 05:50 |

7. Before thee, also, the apostles We sent were but men, to whom We granted inspiration: If ye realise this not, ask of those who possess the Message.  
8. Nor did We give them bodies that ate no food, nor were they exempt from death.  
Surah 21. The Prophets ( 7- 8 )

# 90% of Iran's Trade Is Done by Sea

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

**TEHRAN - The deputy head of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization Jalil Eslami says almost 90 percent of Iran's trade is done by the sea and maritime transportation and seafarers are center of this activity and task.**

Speaking on the occasion of international Day of Seafarer, Jalili said that the slogan of International Maritime Organization (IMO) on the Day of Seafarer is "seafarers are key component of maritime industry".

He added that the provision chain of world trade is a long chain where seafarers have essential role in it and the world trade marches ahead due to seafarers' efforts.

Eslami went on to say that almost 90 percent of Iran's trade is done by the sea and support of maritime transportation and seafarers have a significant responsibility on their shoulders. He added that Iran has experience of holding maritime courses for 34 years and this is the 11<sup>th</sup> time that the country marks the Day of Seafarer.

He noted that over 20,000 maritime operations were carried out last year in the country's trade ports for serving the vessels by seafarers.

Eslami added that over 16m maritime travelers enjoy marine services in south and north of Iran which are offered by sailors.

He said over 160m tons of goods have been loaded and unloaded in the ports where sailors have had great role in them. Eslami reiterated that the country has some 130,000 registered sailors and the marine system needs new regulations and directives.

On the international front, he said the organization has several times submitted its protests to the IMO over the U.S. illegal pressures and threats.

Eslami noted that over 77,000 maritime documents have been issued by the organization for the seafarers and 600 training courses have been held and 40,000 people have attended the courses.



He further said the organization is to launch a think-tank by cooperation of seafarers soon in order that their problems and related issues to be resolved there.

Meanwhile in the ceremony, deputy head of Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL) said that unfortunately Iranian sailors have failed to show their capabilities internationally due to their passports and political reasons.

Captain Farshad Shahbaz said that seafarers need to have mastery over life skills, adding that in Iran one cannot find satisfied sailors as they take great woes with them from their houses to the sea.

He noted that unfortunately officials are not aware of the importance of Iran's shipping line and oil tankers, adding that if the shipping line of ISIRL and oil tankers are not be able to continue their works, sanctions will bear fruit and the country will collapse.

Shahbaz reiterated that although seafarers get good salaries but being far from family ruins them and IRISL has tried to enliven incentives among seafarers by different means.

Meanwhile Head of Iran's Port and Maritime Organization Mr. Mohammad Rastad said that although sanctions have created problems but the era of sanctions is transient and it will come to an end,

He said Iran's maritime sector has good capacity which can serve the country.

## First Uzbekistan Desk Meeting Convenes

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – The first meeting of Uzbekistan Desk was held at Iran Trade Promotion Organization to review the latest developments as well as pursuing the approvals of the 13<sup>th</sup> Iran-Uzbekistan Joint Economic Commission.



According to reports, Director General of Europe and America at Trade Promotion Organization of Iran Mr. Behrouz Olfat pointed to the resumption of meetings of Uzbekistan Desk after the Coronavirus pandemic, adding that in the new condition, all developmental programs for trade interactions with the export target countries especially Uzbekistan should be pursued seriously.

He added that removing technical infrastructures, transportation and trade are of the necessities of implementing the set target for bolstering trade with neighboring states especially enhancing exports to the Central Asian region.

Olfat noted that according to the agreements in recent meetings, signing preferential trade with Uzbekistan, bolstering industrial-mineral cooperations, joint investment in free zones, custom, scientific and technology, facilitating visa and participation in trade events, are on the agenda of the commission.

Meanwhile in the session, the representative of road ministry said that easing the dispatch of economic activists, restoring direct flight between Tehran-Tashkent in July are on the agenda of the desk.

During the meeting, some other issues like bolstering bilateral cooperations in agro, cultural, energy, health, cooperatives and mercantile exchange were reviewed and presence of Iranian economic activists and companies in exhibitions in Tashkent in 2020 were the other issues which were discussed in the meeting.

## Tenfold Increase in Tehran-Dhaka Cooperation, Possible

SHIRAZ (IRNA) - Bangladeshi commercial attaché in Iran believes that Dhaka and Tehran can materialize tenfold increase in the volume of bilateral trade exchange.

Mohammad Sabour Hossein made the remarks in a meeting held in the southern Iranian province of Fars on Tuesday evening with members of the provincial Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines.

Iran and Bangladesh will see promotion of trade cooperation if they take more positive steps, Hossein said.

He went on to say that the value of trade exchange between Dhaka and Tehran in the last fiscal year stood at 100 million dollars.

He further referred to tar, string, clinker and dried fruits as goods being exported from Iran to Bangladesh



because of the good market they receive there.

Then, he pointed to the issue of investment as another area of cooperation between the two countries.

Hossein noted that Bangladesh is ready to foster any kind of cooperation with Iran.

Bangladesh is seriously seeking more relations with Iran's Chamber of Commerce, Hossein added.

The Bangladeshi official invited Fars Chamber of Commerce to attend meetings to be held on the sidelines of the future Developing-8 (D-8) summit in Bangladesh.

D-8 is an organization for developing cooperation between the member countries including Bangladesh, Iran, Egypt, Malaysia, Nigeria, Indonesia, Pakistan and Turkey.

As Hossein said, there are good economic opportunities that can be taken by businesspersons in Bangladesh and Iran province of Fars. For her part, a member of Fars Chamber of Commerce Yalda Raahdar said in the meeting that the two sides can make use of the existing economic opportunities to promote relations.

She said the Iranian province endeavors to prepare the ground for further trade exchange between the two countries and remove the obstacles to this end.

## Parvizia Elected as Member of Presiding Board of Iranian Committee of ICC

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – The CEO of Parsian Bank Dr. Kourosh Parvizia was elected as a member of presiding board of council of Iranian Committee of International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) for a three-year term.

The general assembly meeting of Iranian Committee of ICC convened where the new members of its presiding board were elected.

During the election, Chairman and vice-chairman of Iran Chamber of commerce Gholamhossein Shafei and Hossein Salahvarzi, chairman of Tehran Chamber of Commerce Masoud Khansari, member of board of directors of Middle East Bank Mr. Seyed Hossein Salimi, secretary general of Iran Insurers Syndicate Seyed Mohammad Karimi, the CEO of Export



Development Bank of Iran Dr. Aliakbar Salehabadi and the CEO of Parsian Bank Dr. Parvizia were elected as the new members of presaging board of Iranian committee of ICC for a three-year term.

The committee functions in line with economic development, expansion of trade and investment in the country and facilitating international trade and economic activities based on the market economy through drawing up trade laws and regulations and presenting policies and commercial solutions for resolving disputes through arbitration.

## Salehabadi Elected as Member Of Iranian Committee of ICC

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – The CEO of Export Development Bank of Iran Dr. Ali Akbar Salehi was elected as the member of council of Iranian committee of International Chamber of Commerce (ICC).

During the general assembly meeting of Iranian Committee of ICC, Dr. Salehabadi was elected as a member of presiding board of the council of Iranian committee for three years.

According to reports, during the voting, chairman and vice-chairman of Iran Chamber of Commerce Gholamhossein Shafei and Hossein Salahvarzi, the chairman of Tehran Chamber of Commerce Mr. Masoud Khansari, member of board of directors of Middle East Bank Mr. Seyed Hossein Salimi and secretary general of Iran Insurers Syndicate Mr. Seyed Mohammad Karimi were also elected as the other members of the presiding board of the council for a three-year term.

The International Chamber of Commerce is the largest, most representative business organization in the world, has been established to help economic development in the world. Hundreds of thousand of companies from 130 countries are members of this organization and its national committees have been set up in 92 countries.





**SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT**

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## IDRO Determined on Localizing Consortium of S. Pars Phase 14

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Head of Industrial Development and Renovation Organization of Iran (IDRO) says the organization as the organizer of all participant companies in the consortium involved in South Pars Phase 14 project is determined to indigenize the project.

Mr. Amir Bayat in the coordinating meeting with the managers of Industrial Projects Management of Iran (IPMI) said that in line with the surge in production and materializing this slogan, IDRO is determined to take advantage of all capacities of domestic capabilities, domestic knowledge-based companies and manufacturers for this huge project in the energy sector.

He added that IDRO and the marine sector companies have managed to launch the installations of the project with appropriate speed and it is considered a geo-economic success for exploiting up to 2b cubic feet in this offshore project. Bayat emphasized that in the current critical condition of the country, the increased efforts of consortium are focused on accelerating the completion of Phase 14 in the onshore sector.

He termed the consortium as a valuable factor in enhancing productivity and protecting national interests.





## Burundi Picks Regime Hardliner as PM

BUJUMBURA (AFP) - Burundi's national assembly on Tuesday approved the nomination of Alain-Guillaume Bunyoni, a hardliner under U.S. sanctions for his alleged role in political repression, as prime minister.

Bunyoni, who will fill the new position of head of government created in the 2018 constitution, was backed by an overwhelming majority in a session boycotted by the opposition.

Bunyoni is currently minister of public security and former head of the national police.



## India Tells Pakistan to Cut Embassy Staff by Half

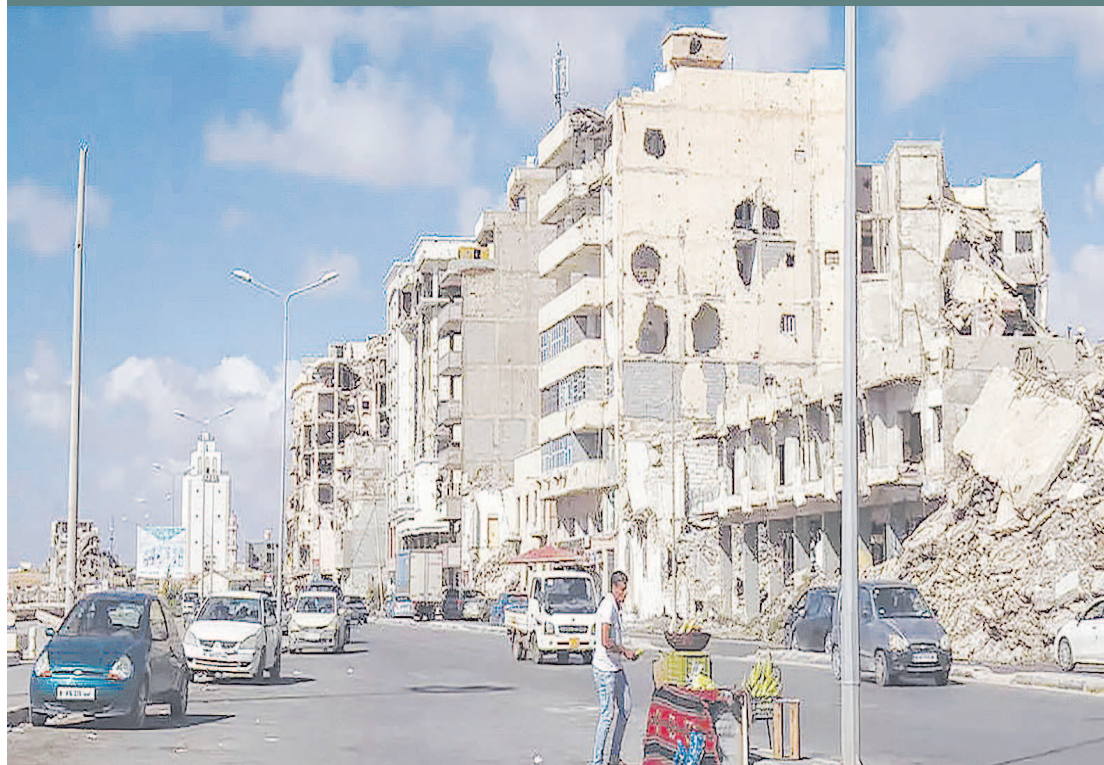
NEW DELHI (AFP) - India told Pakistan Tuesday to slash its embassy staff in New Delhi by half -- saying it would do the same in Islamabad -- as a diplomatic spat continued between the nuclear-armed rivals.

The fractious relationship between the neighbours has worsened since New Delhi expelled two Pakistan embassy officials over spying claims in late May.

After that happened, New Delhi accused Islamabad of torturing two Indian diplomats arrested following an alleged hit-and-run in the Pakistani capital.



## Arab League Urges Withdrawal of Foreign Forces From Libya



CAIRO (AFP) - The Arab League on Tuesday called for the withdrawal of foreign forces in Libya and urged for talks on ending the conflict in the north African country.

The virtual meeting, held at Egypt's request, comes amid a flaring conflict in neighbouring Libya between a UN-recognised government in the country's west and eastern-based forces loyal to strongman Khalifa Haftar.

It was attended by representatives from 21 Arab countries including Libya's Government of National Accord (GNA), which had opposed the meeting earlier this week.

The 14-clause resolution submitted by the Arab League provided for "rejecting all illegitimate foreign interventions" in Libya and called for "the withdrawal of all foreign forces on Libyan territories and its regional waters."

Libya's representative, Saleh al-Shamakhi, expressed reservations on the Arab League's call, saying that foreign forces backing the GNA helped roll back the "aggression" by Haftar's forces.

The Turkish-backed GNA has recently made major military gains against Haftar's forces, who have sought to regain control over the west in an abortive attempt to seize Tripoli.

Egypt, which backs Haftar, has warned that advances by Turkey-backed forces on the strategic Libyan city of Sirte could prompt an Egyptian military intervention.

The GNA denounced Sisi's statements as a "declaration of war".

Earlier this month, Cairo proposed a peace initiative calling for a ceasefire, withdrawal of mercenaries and disbanding militias in the neighbouring country.

The proposal was dismissed by the GNA and Ankara.

On Tuesday, the Arab League welcomed Egypt's proposal and urged Libyan factions to "positively engage" with such initiatives.

Shamakhi also voiced reservations on the call, saying the GNA was not invited to be part of Cairo's initiative. He added that "whoever wants to mediate... should not be siding with one party over the other".

Tunisia, Qatar and Somalia expressed reservations on the clauses criticised by Libya.

Libya has been mired in chaos since the 2011 uprising that toppled and later killed longtime dictator Moamer Kadhafi.

Besides Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Russia back Haftar's forces.

## Syria Refuses to Bow To U.S. Sanctions



DAMASCUS (AFP) - Syria refuses to "bow" to Washington's demands under the latest U.S. sanctions, Foreign Minister Walid Muallem said Tuesday, charging that the sole aim was to undermine support for President Bashar al-Assad.

"If they (Washington) dreamt that Syria and its people would bow to their conditions, then I would say let them keep dreaming because this will never happen," Muallem told a news conference in Damascus, nearly a week after the Caesar Act came into force.

The sanctions laid down in the law, according to U.S. officials, aim to force Assad to accept UN Security Council Resolution 2254 of 2015 that calls for a ceasefire, elections and political transition in Syria.

But the real objective is "to influence upcoming presidential elections" in Syria scheduled for next year, Muallem said, and weaken support for Assad ahead of polling. "President Assad will remain as long as the Syrian people want him to," the foreign minister stressed.

The Caesar Act, which took effect last Wednesday, punishes under U.S. law any company that works with Assad, casting a cloud over efforts to rebuild Syria.

The first designations target 39 people or entities, including Assad and his wife Asma -- the first time she has been slapped with US sanctions.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called the sanctions "the beginning of what will be a sustained campaign of economic and political pressure to deny the Assad regime revenue and support it uses to wage war and commit mass atrocities against the Syrian people".

Muallem said such comments were part of a "chorus of lies", arguing that "those seeking the interests of the Syrian people wouldn't conspire against their livelihoods". Syrians should try to use the latest sanctions as an "opportunity to advance the national economy, achieve self-sufficiency, and deepen our cooperation with friends and allies", he said.

## China Warns Risk of Naval Incident With U.S. on the Rise

BEIJING (AFP) - The U.S. military is deploying "unprecedented" numbers to the Asia-Pacific region, raising the risk of an incident with China's navy, a senior Chinese official said Tuesday.

Tensions between the two superpowers have soared on multiple fronts since President Donald Trump took office in 2017, with both countries flexing their diplomatic and military muscle.

The United States' regular "freedom of navigation" operations in the South China Sea -- where China and neighbouring countries have competing claims -- angers Beijing, and China's navy usually warns off the U.S. ships.

For its part, Beijing has infuriated other nations by building artificial islands with military installations in parts of the sea. "The U.S. military deployment in the Asia-Pacific region is unprecedented," said Wu Shicun, president of the National Institute of South China Sea Studies, a government think tank.

"The possibility of a military incident or an accidental shot fired is rising," Wu said. "If a crisis were to erupt, the repercussions on bilateral relations would be catastrophic."

Wu spoke at the presentation of a report by his institute on the U.S. military presence in the region. The report said the U.S. has deployed 375,000 soldiers and 60 percent of its warships in the Indo-Pacific region. Three U.S. aircraft carriers have been sent to the region.

During former president Barack Obama's eight years in office, the U.S. navy conducted four freedom of navigation operations while there have been 22 of them under Trump, Wu said.

The two militaries "Should step up communication" in order "to prevent strategic misunderstanding and miscalculation", according to the report.

High-level military meetings should resume, a direct phone line should be opened and joint naval manoeuvres should be done, it says. The report says China does not regard the United States as a potential rival or "envisage a new cold or hot war with the U.S".

## UN Retains \$6.5b Peacekeeping Budget

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - The UN budget for peacekeeping operations will remain at \$6.5 billion under an agreement reached overnight among the UN's 193 member states, diplomats said Tuesday.

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, which entails increased costs for medical and protective gear but also lower spending on travel and troop rotations, it was decided to allow for flexibility in the budget blueprints for the UN's 15-odd peacekeeping operations to allow them to adapt to the global health crisis, one diplomat said on condition of anonymity.

The budget for these operations runs from July 1 to June 30.

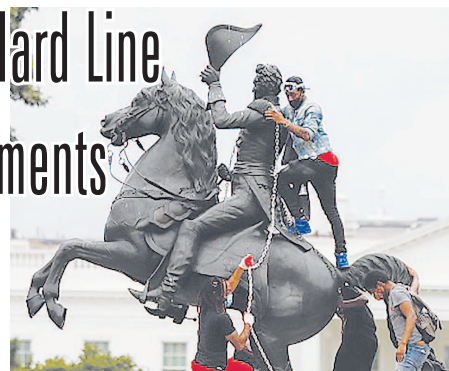
The UN budget office recommended allotting 33 million dollars less than what UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres requested for the peacekeeping operations, and member states reduced this further by 77 million dollars, diplomats said.

The most expensive UN peacekeeping operations are those under way in South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, and the Central African Republic. Each costs around a billion dollars a year.

The peacekeeping budget is separate from the UN's three billion dollar operating budget which runs from January to December.



## Trump Takes Hard Line On U.S. Monuments



WASHINGTON (Reuters)

- President Donald Trump on Tuesday pledged to take a hard line on anyone destroying or vandalizing U.S. historical monuments

and threatened to use force on some protesters, as political activism against racial injustice sweeps the country and threatens his re-election chances.

"They're not taking down our monuments," Trump told reporters at the White House. "I will have an executive order very shortly and all it's going to really do is reinforce what's already there, but in a more uniform way."

Trump also on Tuesday announced via Twitter an authorization "effective immediately" to arrest anyone caught hurting a commemoration to an armed services member on federal land, even though the government already had that power under the 2003 Veterans Memorial Act.

Many statues and monuments targeted by crowds in recent weeks pay homage to the rebel Confederacy from the nation's Civil War and are seen as tributes to those who perpetuated slavery. The calls for their removal, along with massive Black Lives Matter protests earlier this month and local governments reforming police forces, were sparked by the May 25 death of George Floyd, a Black man killed in police custody.

Trump has been out of step with most of the country, blasting the protests even though a majority of Americans sympathize with them. At his Saturday rally in Oklahoma he said an "unhinged left-wing mob" wants to "desecrate" what he described as "beautiful monuments."

Mixed with his rocky response to the coronavirus that has killed more than 120,000 Americans, the disconnect has put Trump behind former Vice President Joe Biden, his presumptive challenger in the Nov. 3 election, in opinion polls.

Late on Monday protesters tried to topple a statue of former President Andrew Jackson facing the White House, scrawling "killer scum" on the base and pulling at ropes around the figure of Jackson on a horse. Police in riot gear drove the crowd back and formed a protective ring around the statue.



**Shanon**  
(adviser)

**Elahieh Apt (\$2000)**  
250sq.m, 4bdrs  
S/p, Sauna  
J, balcony  
fireplace  
Fully Furn

**Elahieh Villa (\$5000)**  
1000sq.m  
5bdrs, S/p  
S, J, & pkg  
green yard  
Fully Furn

**Parsian**

**Aghdasieh Apt (\$2200)**  
220sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p, S, J, F.F

**Apt (\$2700)**  
**Zaferanieh**  
220sq.m, 3bdrs  
S/pool, Sauna  
Jacuzzi, pkg  
L.balcony  
F.F

**Jordan Apt (\$1600)**  
180sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p, F.F

**bldg (\$8000)**  
**Farmanieh**  
4storey, 15bdrs  
S/pool, Sauna  
Jacuzzi, pkgs  
green yard  
Semi Furn

**Sa`adat abad**  
150sq.m, 2bdrs  
S/p, F.F (\$1500)

**Jordan Office**  
300sq.m, 5bdrs  
(\$30 per sq.m)

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## Shell Plans Major Restructuring Around Climate Drive

LONDON (Reuters) - Royal Dutch Shell will announce a major restructuring by the end of the year as the energy company prepares to accelerate its shift towards low-carbon, CEO Ben van Beurden told employees, a company source said.

In a video interview published on Shell's internal website, van Beurden said that the restructuring would involve job cuts as part of broad cost reductions, although no figures have been decided yet, according to sources who saw the interview. "Ben spoke about positioning the company in the energy transition," one of the sources said. "The company will announce the new shape of the organisation by the end of the year."



## German Economy to Shrink by 6.5% This Year Due to Coronavirus

BERLIN (Reuters) - The German economy will shrink by 6.5% this year due to the coronavirus pandemic, the government's council of economic advisors said on Tuesday, adding that the slump will be prolonged if the number of new infections jumps.

The bleak outlook came after the premier of Germany's most populous state, North Rhine-Westphalia, put the Guetersloh region back into lockdown until June 30 following a coronavirus outbreak at a meatpacking plant there.

"The coronavirus pandemic is expected to cause the largest slump of the German economy since the founding of the Federal Republic. But we expect the recovery to start in the summer," council head Lars Feld said.

Adjusted for calendar effects, the German economy is seen shrinking by 6.9% this year. The council said it expects a slow recovery in the second half of the year, with gross domestic product (GDP) forecast to grow by 4.9% next year.

"This means GDP probably won't get back to its pre-pandemic level until 2022 at the earliest," the council said in a statement, adding that the government's stimulus measures were likely to support the recovery.

The government should continue its expansive fiscal policies next year and avoid a debate about a consolidation of public finances before 2022, Feld said.

Chancellor Angela Merkel's cabinet passed an extra budget last week to finance its bumper stimulus package, pushing up overall new borrowing to a record 218.5 billion euros (£198 billion) this year.

Feld said he was confident another lockdown and a second economic slump could be avoided as authorities and citizens had learned to adapt to the new infection risk by behaving more cautiously.

Earlier on Tuesday a survey among purchasing managers showed Germany's private sector recession eased further in June, but coronavirus-related disruptions and uncertainty continued to weigh on demand.

## Alitalia Has €232m in Cash as Nationalization Looms

ROME (Reuters) - Alitalia had 232 million euros (£210 million) in its coffers on May 31, Italian industry minister Stefano Patuanelli said on Tuesday, as the government prepares to take over an airline that has burned through cash in the COVID-19 pandemic.

The nationalization of the loss-making business comes after 11 troubled years of private management and three failed restructuring attempts.

The government injected 400 million euros into Alitalia at the beginning of this year, after granting a bridge loan of 900 million euros in 2017, which was not paid back.

"As of May 31 the company had 232 million euros in liquidity ... revenue between January and May amounted to 505 million," Patuanelli told a parliamentary hearing.

In the same period last year, the carrier recorded 1.1 billion euros in revenues.

Transport Minister Paola De Micheli, also addressing parliament on the nationalisation plan, said the government would invest in planes, "particularly for long-haul" flights.

Rome said last month, as it eased a three-month coronavirus lockdown, that it would inject at least 3 billion euros of fresh capital into Alitalia to relaunch it as a new public company.

The government planned to nationalise the carrier in early June, but the project has not taken shape yet and the ministers did not give a time frame on Tuesday.

"We are re-designing an entire sector of national transport ... (Alitalia) cannot be a small-scale company," De Micheli told lawmakers.



## India Retains Position as Third Largest Economy in PPP

NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - India has retained its position as the third-largest economy in the world in terms of purchasing power parity (PPP), behind the U.S. and China, the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) said on Tuesday. India accounts for 6.7% or \$8,051 billion, out of the world's total of \$119,547 billion of global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in terms of PPP compared to 16.4 % in case of China and 16.3 % for the U.S., World Bank data for reference year 2017 show.

The findings are part of the World Bank new PPPs for reference year 2017, under the International Comparison Program that adjust for differences in the cost of living across economies of the World. Globally 176 economies participated in the 2017 cycle of ICP. The next ICP comparison will be conducted for reference year 2021.

"India is also the third largest economy in terms of its PPP-based share in global Actual Individual Consumption and Global Gross Capital Formation," MoSPI said.

In the Asia-Pacific Region, in 2017, India retained its regional position, as the second largest economy, accounted for 20.83 % in terms of PPPs where China was first at 50.76% and Indonesia at 7.49% was third. India is

also the second largest economy in terms of its PPP-based share in regional Actual Individual Consumption and regional Gross Capital Formation.

Purchasing Power Parities are vital for converting measures of economic activities to be comparable across economies. India was a co-Chair of the ICP Governing Board along with Statistics Austria for the ICP 2017 cycle, the ministry said.

India, was the third-largest economy, followed by Japan, Germany, and the Russian Federation.

Overall, 19 economies contributed three-quarters of global GDP; three of these economies (India, Indonesia, and the Arab Republic of Egypt) were classified as lower-middle-income economies and six (China, the Russian Federation, Brazil, Mexico, Turkey, and the Islamic Republic of Iran) were classified as upper-middle-income economies, with the remainder classified as high income economies.

"Together, they represented nearly 64% of the global population," the World Bank said.

The PPPs of Indian Rupee per US\$ at Gross Domestic Product (GDP) level is now 20.65 in 2017 from 15.55 in 2011. The Exchange Rate of US Dollar to Indian Rupee is now 65.12 from 46.67 during the same period.

## U.S. Business Sector Contraction Eases in June

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. business activity contracted for a fifth straight month in June, but the pace of decline eased, supporting views that the recession caused by

the COVID-19 crisis was drawing to an end.

Data firm IHS Markit said on Tuesday its flash U.S. Composite Output Index, which tracks the manufacturing and services sectors, rose to a reading of 46.8 last month from 37 in May. A reading below 50 indicates contraction in private sector output. The economy slipped into recession in February.

The improvement this month came as businesses reopened after shuttering in mid-March to control the spread of the respiratory illness. Still, layoffs continued this month and businesses put a freeze on hiring to deal with weak demand and to cut costs.

The IHS Markit survey's flash Purchasing Managers Index for the services sector rose to 46.7 in June from 37.5 in the prior month. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast a reading of 46.0 in June for the services sector, which accounts for roughly two-thirds of the U.S. economy.

In the manufacturing sector, the contraction in activity slowed this month, with the flash manufacturing PMI increasing to 49.6 from a reading of 39.8 in May. Economists had forecast the index for the sector, which accounts for 11% of the economy, rising to 47.8 in June.

A measure of new orders received by factories increased to a reading of 49.5 in June from 34.6 in May.

Businesses reported increases in both input and output prices for the first time since February. According to IHS Markit, "firms stated that higher input costs from suppliers due to COVID-19 related supply chain issues were partially passed on to clients, with some mentioning that demand conditions were such that discounting was no longer required."

## Britain, EU to Miss Deadline for Future Financial Market Access

LONDON (Reuters) - Britain and the European Union are set to miss their end-June deadline for assessing future cross-border trade in financial services, leaving just six months before a potentially messy UK exit, financial industry and EU officials say.

Britain left the EU in January and complies with the bloc's rules until the end of December in return for continued full access for financial firms. Future direct EU access will depend on whether Brussels deems UK regulation to be "equivalent" to standards in the bloc. The EU and Britain agreed last year they would make "best endeavours" to complete the assessments by June 30.

"It's a long, slow process and no one is rushing to finish them by the 'official' target date," a senior official at an international bank said. Britain has repeatedly said the assessments should be a formality, given that it has put all EU rules into UK law.

However, the EU's assessments go beyond checking if Britain's rules are currently equivalent, to asking whether the UK intends to diverge from EU norms in future, raising a major strategic issue, an official at a UK financial firm with EU operations said.

UK finance minister Rishi Sunak said on Tuesday that comprehensive findings of equivalence were in the best interests of both parties, but also indicated there would be some changes to UK rulebooks, pleasing some Brexit backers who want to use Britain's departure to change regulation.

Without equivalence, financial firms in Britain would be cut off from the EU market and have to open hubs in the bloc to continue serving customers there. A European Commission official said the EU executive had sent questionnaires to British authorities covering 28 areas. "The UK has not yet answered most of the questionnaires," the commission official said.

"Assessments are also challenging because equivalence assessment will have to be forward-looking, taking account of overall developments, including any UK intention to diverge from EU rules," the commission official said.

"This is why we need clarity on how the relevant UK rules will evolve after Jan. 1, 2021."

The EU has said it will only take a decision on actual access once it is fully satisfied with the assessments.

It mirrors the slowness of progress in separate UK-EU talks on a free trade agreement.

Sunak on Tuesday began setting out how Britain will regulate the financial sector beyond December, flagging that it wants to make changes to parts of insurance capital rules inherited from the bloc, which could make equivalence problematic, and amend consumer disclosure rules.

"We will analyse the UK's texts and discuss them with the UK authorities in the overall context of our equivalence assessments," the commission official said.

Britain's finance ministry had no immediate comment.

## Turkey's Economy Expected To Record V-Shaped Recovery



ANKARA (Dispatches) - Turkey is anticipated to come out of the coronavirus-driven crisis with a V-shaped recovery, and will converge its potential growth, the country's treasury and finance minister has said.

Addressing the general assembly of the Banks Association of Turkey in Istanbul on June 23, Berat Albayrak said the government clearly observes the recovery in economic activity.

He noted that the economy grew by 4.5 percent in the first quarter of the year on an annual basis and said that initial indicators suggest growth is likely to remain strong in the coming period.

"Despite the unfavorable outlook stemming from the coronavirus related developments in the second half of the year, preliminary data for economic recovery and confidence in the economy for June are promising," Albayrak said, adding that Turkey is one of the economies least affected by the pandemic.

The minister also stressed that credit growth has remained strong thanks to lower borrowing costs, which resulted from the Central Bank's rate cuts and cheaper loans provided particularly by state-owned lenders.

Total credits extended increased by 27.3 percent on an annual basis in May, according to the minister.

He elaborated that 133,000 applications have been received for low-cost housing loans, which were launched amid the outbreak, and around 25 billion Turkish Liras (some \$3.6 billion) have been allocated under the scheme to more than 100,000 individuals.

The size of the Economic Stability Shield package the government announced to help firms and households weather the impact from the outbreak has exceeded 280 billion liras, excluding deferred loan payments and interests. There is a clear improvement in domestic demand and expectations, he added.



## Vandalizing National Monuments, Statues by Protesters Shows U.S.' Decline

TEHRAN (MNA) – The Chairman of Assembly of Experts Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati said on Wednesday that the cruel murder of the African Americans in the U.S. is another symbol for the American human rights etiquette and toppling down the statues and damaging the national monuments during the recent protest in the

country is a sign for the decline of the USA.

“Various U.S. administrations have conducted anti-human crimes examples of which are what Americans did in Vietnam, Hiroshima, Palestine, Yemen, Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria,” he said adding the assassination of Lt. Gen. Qassem Soleimani under the direct order of the U.S. President Trump.



# China's Economy Will Resume Growth This Quarter

BEIJING (BLOOMBERG) - Economists upgraded their forecasts for China's economic growth this quarter and for 2020, signaling more optimism that the country is on track for a gradual recovery.

Gross domestic product will expand at 1.5 per cent in the second quarter from a year earlier, according to the median estimate of economists in a Bloomberg survey last week. That's faster than 1.2 per cent growth seen in the last survey in May. Economists also dialed up their full-year growth projection to 1.8 per cent from 1.7 per cent.

The results indicate the world's second-largest economy will be able to escape a technical recession that some economists had envisioned after a historic slump of 6.8 per cent in the first three months of the year amid the coronavirus shutdowns. At the same time, while industry has returned to growth, households are still wary and consumption remains in contraction.

“The Chinese economy has continued to regain growth momentum,” said Aidan Yao, senior economist at AXA SA in Hong Kong. “With industrial production and services output both resuming growth, we now expect a positive GDP growth print for the second quarter.”

Policy makers have pledged a record amount of government debt sales to help boost domestic demand, and banks have been told to extend more credit to businesses as well as offer interest-payment holidays.

By contrast, China Beige Book, which surveyed more than 3,300 firms in the country, said the economy contracted again in the three months to June and is heading for a full-year recession.

Key metrics including manufacturing profits, capital expenditures and retail sales volumes remained at historically low levels and barely improved from those in the first quarter, CBB International said in a quarterly report.

Economists surveyed by Bloomberg expect growth in industrial output and fixed-asset investment to continue to accelerate and reach a pace similar to the pre-virus level in the second half, the survey showed.

Meanwhile, headwinds will remain in place especially on the demand side. Concerns about job stability and the resurgence of Covid-19 cases in Beijing will likely weigh on consumption, which economists forecast to remain in contraction for 2020. Factory deflation will stay throughout the year and consumer inflation will likely soften significantly on lack of demand, survey showed.



More monetary easing will likely come to shore up demand and guide borrowing costs for businesses lower. Economists expect the People's Bank of China to cut the nominal reserve ratio for major banks to 11.5 per cent from the current 12.5 per cent in the third quarter, as well as slashing the key 7-day reverse repo interest rate to 2.05 per cent from the current 2.2 per cent.

A separate survey polling traders and market analysts showed more modest expectations for the policy outlook, in which reserve ratios are expected to be lowered to 12 per cent and the 7-day reverse repo rate to 2.1 per cent by September.

The focus of monetary policy is shifting to credit easing from the rapid reduction of interest rates previously, according to Ming Ming, head of fixed-income research at Citic Securities in Beijing. “The recovery momentum in economic fundamentals will be kept up in the third quarter under the support of special sovereign and local bonds, which means bond yields will fluctuate at a high level,” he said.

## Iraq in Existential Economic Situation, Finances Worse than 2005



ERBIL (Kurdistan 24) – Iraq's newly appointed Finance Minister Ali Allawi, in an exclusive interview with AFP, announced that Iraq, economically, is in an existential condition that its financial situation is worse than the post-2003 liberation.

Iraq's vulnerable economy, whose source of revenue is heavily oil-dependent, has been experiencing a huge blow in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak in the country. Iraq is currently struggling to manage its bloated public pays with slashed oil prices that significantly dried state's coffers.

Finance Minister Ali Allawi, who's also Iraq's finance minister in post-invasion period, recently reassumed the office to manage the country's economic dire situation. “The finances are worse than it was in 2005 or 2006,” Allawi told AFP, as he explained the current economic situation as “existential” for Iraq.

Iraq's public payroll in the post-invasion was only a million employees while its public servants increased to 4.5 million with 2.5 retirees at an oil price around \$35, AFP analyzed.

The finance minister warned, during his interview with AFP, that Iraq could not be managed, economically, by hoping that oil prices would increase so it can cover the state expenses. “If oil prices stay at this level for a year, and our expenses stay the same, without a doubt we're going to hit a wall,” Allawi told AFP.

In order to save the economy from sinking, the finance minister said that he would propose an economic reform plan to Iraq's Council of Representatives in three months, including austerity measures that last for two years, he added to AFP.

Besides the reform plan, he hopes to cut the high-paid bureaucrats stipend, access fund from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank as well as to prevent “double-dripping” those who have more than a salary in the government, Allawi explained his intentions. He added that he would also work to boost Iraq's non-oil revenues to thwart the potential shocks caused by oil's price volatility.

Iraq's post-U.S.-led liberation economy was in a bitter shape as it had suffered more than a decade-long UN imposed sanctions due to the former Ba'athist regime's notorious acts. Iraq, according to International Transparency Index, is the 16th corrupt country in the world that more than \$400 billion disappeared from public treasury following the 2003 invasion.

## Malaysia's Debt May Hit 55%, Fiscal Discipline Maintained

KUALA LUMPUR (Dispatches) - The country's debt level could hit the statutory limit of 55 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) at the end of the year, from 52 per cent currently following the implementation of measures to save lives, protect livelihood and stimulate the economy, says Finance Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz.

The government had announced the RM260-billion Prihatin Rakyat Economic Stimulus Plan (Prihatin), followed by the RM35-billion short-term Economic Recovery Plan (Penjana) aimed at stimulating the country's economy that had been hit by the Covid-19 pandemic, bringing the government's direct fiscal injection to RM45 billion.

“(But) I have mentioned several times that between 97 and 98 per cent of our debt is domestic debt, and this is important as it means that our exposure to foreign currency fluctuation risks is very limited,” he said in presenting the 10th Economic Stimulus Implementation & Coordination Unit Between National Agencies (Laksana) report yesterday.

In a recent interview, Tengku Zafrul had said that the RM10 billion direct fiscal injection in Penjana was raised from Malaysian Government Securities and Malaysian Government Instrument Issues.

He also said Malaysia could afford the 55 per cent debt to GDP ratio. In his speech on the report, he added that the government was very committed in ensuring fiscal discipline would be maintained.

“Analysts, rating agencies and investors understand that Malaysia, like other countries, will post a higher deficit following various economic stimulus measures.

“Yes, Malaysia's budget deficit is projected to rise to 5.8-6.0 per cent. Prior to this, the 2020 Budget had projected a deficit of 3.4 per cent.

“Moving forward, what is most important is what we can do to improve the situation. The government is committed to fiscal discipline and to reduce the fiscal deficit to below four per cent within the next three, four years,” he said.

## FAO After Food Security, Nutrition in Pandemic Era in Asia-Pacific

TEHRAN (IRNA) - The Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations warned that the global pandemic caused by the COVID-19 requires a greater coordinated response on many policy levels, particularly to ensure food and nutrition security of billions of people in the vast Asia-Pacific region.

According to the FAO Regional Office, the COVID-19 pandemic poses a serious threat to food and nutrition security in Asia and the Pacific, as the economic turmoil caused by the pandemic and the lockdowns threaten both economic and physical access to food.

In this respect, the FAO calls on the region's countries to focus on:

Controlling the spread of the virus and implementing physical distancing to reduce fear among all laborers, including those working in food supply chains.

Expanding social protection, in the short-term as part of countries' economic stimulus measures, to cover more people and provide more generous benefits to ensure food access for all, while also reducing the administrative burden needed to access the funds.

The necessity of working together for Governments and the private sector to solve disruptions in food supply chains when they arise.

Avoiding export restrictions in international trade to make sure supply chains continue to function.

Building resilience into food systems to safeguard them against future economic and health shocks as part of stimulus measures to ensure food access.

As per Jong-Jin Kim, FAO Deputy Regional Representative and Head of the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, in such circumstances, “clearly we need to adapt many aspects of our present policies and approaches to growing, harvesting, transporting, processing and selling food in this evolving era of COVID-19 to secure our nutritional well-being and our livelihoods.”



Zarif...

FROM PAGE 1

Earlier this year, the U.S. announced its intentions to prevent the lifting of the embargo on the purchase of conventional weapons to Iran that will expire in October under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

The JCPOA is a nuclear deal that was signed between Iran and the P5+1 group of states — the US, the UK, France, Russia, and China plus Germany — in Vienna in 2015.

## President Repeats...

FROM PAGE 1

“Iran is still ready to accept the legal monitoring of the IAEA and to cooperate with it within the framework of the law,” he said.

Stating that, “The Agency's reputation is very important to the international community,” President Rouhani said, “Iran is still ready to accept the Agency's legal monitoring and cooperate with it within the framework of the law”.

## Record-High Number of...

FROM PAGE 1

Meanwhile Deputy Minister of Health Alireza Raisi stated that because Afghanistan does not enjoy expertise to use PCR systems, it has asked Iran to help them combat coronavirus.

In response to question on Iran-Afghanistan cooperation in the framework of combating Corona, he said, “Iran-Afghanistan hold constant talks on Iran's methods to contain the virus, in particular, Iran's National Screening.”

Due to a lack of electronic infrastructures, implementing the Iranian style of “National Screening” plan was impossible for Afghanistan, but Iran suggested they apply “Phone-Screening” to detect those who infected, he noted.

Raisi also referred to the recent visit of Afghan Acting Foreign Minister to Tehran and said: During the meeting, the Afghan official said the US has sent 50 “Polymerase chain reaction”(PCR) systems but his country doesn't have the expertise to utilize, so Iran has decided to send experts team to train them.”

Having old ties with Afghanistan, Iran has screened and treated over 3 million Afghan nationals during Coronavirus outbreak like its own citizens, he went on to say. While paying a two-day visit to Iran, Afghanistan officials surprised to see how effective is the role of Iranian 16-hour healthcare centers to treat Coronavirus patients, he added.

## Iran's Relationship...

FROM PAGE 1

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman had vowed to restore the toppled president in a matter of weeks.

Meanwhile, Hossein Dehghan, a military advisor to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has also made similar remarks, saying Iran is ready to hold talks with Saudi Arabia without precondition.

He said that Iran's relations with the United Arab Emirates is improving and Abu Dhabi's position on Iran has changed, IRNA reported on Monday, citing Al Jazeera.

## Unfounded Spy Data...

FROM PAGE 1

The agency's GOV/2020/34 resolution whose draft was presented by the three European countries of France, Britain and Germany, demands access to Iranian sites at a time when our country has, in recent years, been a place where the agency conducted the most number of its inspections and the most transparent ones. Furthermore, among all countries, Iran has had the most extensive cooperation with this international agency. But in return, the agency, under political and non-expert pressure from the US and its allies, has issued a resolution against Iran. While rejecting this resolution, the Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission stresses that:

1. Under the regulations, the IAEA is not authorized to make demands for access based on data provided by spy services, especially what relies on baseless claims by the illegitimate Zionist regime [of Israel]. The whole world should know that if Iran agrees to demands for access based on such data, it will set a wrong precedent against all countries.

2. By proposing and adopting the recent resolution, the European countries advanced the United States' demands and showed that they are no short of the US when it comes to bearing grudge against Iran, and this will go down in the Iranian nation's historical memory.

3. In Article 6 of the “Law on Proportionate and Mutual Action by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Implementing JCPOA” approved in 2015, the Parliament has subjected the Iranian government's cooperation with the agency to national interests; now, given the Board of Governor's biased resolution, and in order to protect the Iranian nation's inalienable rights, the Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission has drawn up and presented to the parliament floor for approval a motion which requires the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to stop the voluntary implementation of the Additional Protocol.

4. It has been announced time and again that based on a fatwa by Leader of the Islamic Revolution [Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei], there is no room for nuclear weapons in the Islamic Republic of Iran's defense doctrine; at the same time, the Iranian nation will not allow international institutions to violate the national sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran under pressure from the US and its allies.



## Grand National-Winning Jockey Treadwell Dead at 34

LONDON (AFP) - English jump jockey Liam Treadwell, who rode 100/1 outsider Mon Mome to victory in the 2009 Grand National, has died at the age of 34, it was announced on Tuesday.

"We're deeply saddened to hear about the passing of 2009 Grand National-winning jockey Liam Treadwell," said a post on the Twitter feed of Aintree Racecourse, the Liverpool course that is home to the famed race. "Our sincere condolences to his family and friends at this difficult time."

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## Dortmund Plan Virtual Tour of Asia in August

BERLIN (AFP) - Bundesliga runners-up Borussia Dortmund announced on Tuesday that they plan to replace their cancelled trip to Asia with a virtual tour of on-line events in August.

Dortmund, who have finished second to Bayern Munich in the German league for the last two years, had planned to take their squad to China and Southeast Asia at the end of the European season, but the trip was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

# Murray Takes a Knee in Support of Black Lives Matter Movement

LONDON (Dispatches) - Andy Murray displayed his support for the Black Lives Matter movement by taking a knee before his match against Liam Broady at the Battle of the Brits.

Murray has not played a tennis match since November at the Davis Cup for Great Britain due to injury.

The three-time Grand Slam champion was aiming to return in March but those plans were scuppered by the coronavirus pandemic suspending the tennis season.

However, Murray has signed up to play in the event organised by his brother Jamie at the National Tennis Centre in Roehampton.

In the final singles match of the day, the 33-year-old took to the court with Broady and both players knelt before starting their warm-up.

The gesture, started by NFL star Colin Kaepernick in protest of the racial injustice, has swept across the sporting world.

In the Premier League, players have begun every match of the restart by taking a knee. Speaking in an interview with the BBC, Murray called for more gender equality in sport. "In some ways it's seen as being radical," he said. "I feel like it's the complete



opposite, I think it's a very fair thing that everyone gets treated exactly the same regardless of their skin colour, sex or whatever - it's basic.

"The thing that I never understand with this stuff - and you've seen it a bit more with the Black Lives Matter movement - is that people think it just needs time. But why does it need time? A lot of this stuff you could change immediately.

"The people in the decision making positions could make these changes straight away, a lot of people seem reluctant to make change very fast."

Meanwhile, Murray has revealed he is aiming to play at the US Open and the French Open later this year.

"My hip's been feeling better, probably the last three or four weeks. It feels better than in March," said Murray.

"I think the schedule is tricky. I understand the reasons why it's like that, but I don't understand exactly which tournaments I will or won't play.

"The Grand Slams will be my priority, to play in those ones. But, in terms of what I would do in the

## Aguero Sent to Spain for Check On Knee Injury



LONDON (AFP) - Manchester City striker Sergio Aguero will travel to Spain for further tests on a knee injury that threatens to his season.

The Argentine aggravated a problem that had bothered him for more than a month during the first half of City's 5-0 win over Burnley on Monday.

He was seen clutching his left knee before and after a foul by Ben Mee that earned City a penalty at the Etihad Stadium.

After the Premier League clash, City manager Pep Guardiola admitted Aguero's campaign may be over. In an indication that the problem is serious, City revealed on Tuesday that they are sending the 32-year-old to see Ramon Cugat, a doctor in Barcelona.

"Sergio Aguero suffered damage to his left knee in our recent 5-0 win over Burnley," City said on their Twitter account.

"The striker will now travel to Barcelona to see Dr Ramon Cugat for further examination. "Everyone at City wishes Sergio the best with his recovery."

Cugat, who has known Guardiola since the manager's days at Barcelona, has previously treated City midfielder Kevin De Bruyne and the club's former defender Vincent Kompany.

## Schneiderlin Joins Nice From Everton

LONDON (AFP) - Morgan Schneiderlin has joined Ligue 1 side Nice from Everton for an undisclosed fee, the Premier League club announced on Tuesday.

The 30-year-old midfielder, capped 15 times by France, scored once in 88 appearances for Everton after his move from Manchester United in 2017.

Schneiderlin failed to replicate the form he showed for his first English club Southampton either at Manchester United or at Everton. He had just over a year remaining on his contract. "Everton midfielder Morgan Schneiderlin has completed a transfer to French club Nice for an undisclosed fee," read the Everton statement.

Nice said on their website the fee would be between 2 and 4 million euros and said his 200 plus games in the Premier League and his appearances for France at the 2014 World Cup and 2016 Euros would bring them much-needed experience.

"Finding a good player is one thing, but finding one with this kind of mentality is difficult to do. He will be our major signing of the close season," Nice director Julien Fournier said. Nice are managed by former Arsenal midfielder Patrick Vieira and finished fifth in Ligue 1 in 2019/20.

The club is owned by British chemicals magnate Jim Ratcliffe who runs the Ineos empire of companies which sponsors the world's richest cycling team.

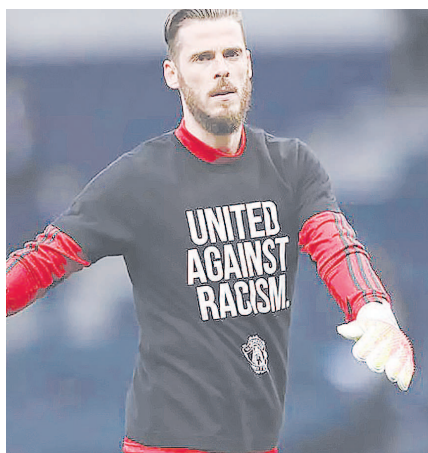
## Seven More Pakistan Players Test Positive for Coronavirus

LONDON (Reuters) - Seven more Pakistan players have tested positive for COVID-19 after being screened ahead of their tour of England, taking the total to 10, the country's cricket board (PCB) said on Tuesday.

Fakhar Zaman, Imran Khan, Kashif Bhatti, Mohammad Hafeez, Mohammad Hasnain, Mohammad Rizwan and Wahab Riaz tested positive along with team masseur Malang Ali.

The PCB on Monday confirmed Haider Ali, Haris Rauf and Shadab Khan had tested positive for the virus.

## Solskjaer Hails De Gea as World's Best Goalkeeper



LONDON (AFP) - Ole Gunnar Solskjaer insisted goalkeeper David de Gea is still "the best in the world", during a passionate defence of the Manchester United star after he was heavily criticised for his performance against Tottenham Hotspur.

United face Sheffield United on Wednesday as Solskjaer's side line up at Old Trafford for the first time since winning the Manchester derby on March 8.

The Reds marked their opening match since the coronavirus lockdown with a 1-1 draw away to Spurs in the Premier League on Friday but De Gea was heavily criticised by former United skipper Roy Keane for letting Steven Bergwijn's shot slip through his fingers.

United manager Solskjaer, a former Old Trafford team-mate of Keane, defended his goalkeeper, however, during a pre-match press conference on Tuesday.

"David is the best goalkeeper in the world," he said.

"He's conceded two goals in the last seven games he's played for us. There's two games against City, Chelsea, of course Tottenham, Everton. Two goals in seven games, we've gone on a run not conceding goals.

"The Everton one is a freak one, maybe. This one, he cannot save it. He makes great saves, he wins games for us."

## Djokovic Tests Positive for Coronavirus



BELGRADE (AFP) - World number one Novak Djokovic said Tuesday he had tested positive for coronavirus, the Serb star becoming the fourth player to contract the virus after taking part in his exhibition tennis tournament in the Balkans.

Djokovic, who is "not showing any symptoms" according to a statement from his spokesperson, joins Grigor Dimitrov, Borna Coric and Viktor Troicki in testing positive for COVID-19.

Djokovic said his wife Jelena also tested positive while the results of their children were negative.

"I am extremely sorry for each individual case of infection," the 33-year-old Serb said in a statement. "I hope that it will not complicate anyone's health situation and that everyone will be fine," the 17-time Grand Slam winner said, adding that he would go into self-isolation for the next 14 days.

Bulgaria's Dimitrov, the world number 19, announced on Sunday he had tested positive after pulling out of the event, the biggest since the tennis season was halted because of the pandemic.

Croatia's Coric and Troicki of Serbia also followed suit on Monday, revealing they also had tested positive.

The final in the Croatian coastal town of Zadar was cancelled Sunday while the final stop in Bosnia, due in early July, has also been scrapped after the news of Djokovic's infection. "Unfortunately, due to all events in the past days we decided that now the most important thing is that the epidemiological situation is stabilised and everyone recovers," tournament director Djordje Djokovic, the player's younger brother, said in a statement.

## Neville Eyes Move Into Club Football After Pep Talk



LONDON (AFP) - England women's boss Phil Neville says Pep Guardiola has advised him to work in club football but he has no doubts in naming his sister as the best coach in the family.

Neville coached England's women to fourth place at the 2019 Women's World Cup, after previously teaming up with brother Gary during an unsuccessful spell with Spanish side Valencia.

He has also had coaching stints with his former club Manchester United and the England men's Under-21 side.

Neville, who has seen the Lionesses' form slump since the World Cup, is due to step down from the England job next year.

The former Manchester United and England defender said that Manchester City boss Guardiola had advised him his next step in coaching should be in club football.

"I spoke to Pep and he was passionate about how I had all this energy and needed to be in day-to-day football," Neville told the BBC.

"Great managers can influence you, and I thought he was right."

Neville said one of the drawbacks in managing an international team was the shortage of time with the players. "There is a big 12 months left with the Lionesses and then, hopefully, I will get the opportunity to manage a club in any country," he said.