

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif Will Go to the Parliament National Security And Foreign Policy Commission To Discuss With the Lawmakers On IAEA BoG's Resolution

IRAN NEWS

FM Mohammad Javad Zarif and His Qatari Counterpart Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani Yesterday Discussed the Latest Regional and Int'l Developments and Stressed Boosting Mutual Cooperation

VOL. XXVI, No. 6981 TEHRAN Price 40,000 Rials

www.irannewsdaily.com

TUESDAY JUNE 30, 2020 - TIR 10, 1399

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Iran Issues Arrest Warrant for Trump, Others Involved in Martyring Soleimani

TEHRAN (IFP) - Tehran's prosecutor says 36 people involved in the assassination of Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani have been identified and the judiciary has ordered their arrest.

Ali Alqasimehr said the judiciary has also given their names to the international police to capture them.

U.S. President Donald Trump is top on the list and his prosecution will be pursued even after his term ends, Tehran's prosecutor added. He underlined that these people are accused of "murder" and conducting "acts of terrorism".

General Soleimani was the commander of IRGC Quds Force, and was widely known as a key figure in fight against ISIS terrorists in the region. He was killed in a U.S. airstrike ordered by Donald Trump at Baghdad International Airport.

Tehran-Beijing Cooperation Plan in Interests of Both States



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Foreign Ministry spokesman denied speculations about a 25-year plan for cooperation between Iran and China, saying the document has different dimensions on political and especially economic cooperation, and it is in the interests of both countries.

In response to a question about the draft plan for

25-year cooperation between Iran and China, which was recently approved by the cabinet and Foreign Minister Zarif was tasked with following it up, the Foreign Ministry Spokesman Seyed Abbas Mousavi said, "This is a new issue. During the Chinese president's visit to Iran, it was agreed that cooperation between the two countries is comprehensive and strategic, and a document was signed." **See Page 7**

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Chelsea, Arsenal Move Into FA Cup Semifinals



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Iran Denies Arbitration Court Ruling On NIGC-Turkmengaz Dispute

TEHRAN (Shana) -- The General Directorate of Public Relations of the Iranian Oil Ministry issued an announcement explaining the outcome of the International Court of Arbitration's ruling regarding the dispute between the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) and Turkmen gas.

The text of the announcement of the General Directorate of Public Relations of the Ministry of Petroleum is as follows:

"Following the cessation of gas exports to Iran by Turkmen gas in early winter 2016, despite efforts by the National Iranian Gas Company to resolve financial disputes between the two sides through negotiations, Turkmen gas decided to refer the dispute to international arbitration. **See Page 7**

The Iranianization of Great Works in Khorasan Steel; A Real Example of a Resistance Economy



The inclusion of a day in the national calendar as "Industry and Mining Day" is not only a "celebration", but also carries a deep meaning. Many historical, geographical and cultural conditions for these words to go hand in hand on the 30th of June. It is worth looking at it with a deeper look. One of the points to consider is the juxtaposition of the words "mine" and "industry" together, which evokes the exceptional territorial position in our country thanks to God-given "mineral reserves" on the one hand. It also reminds us of the need to create added value above these resources and to prevent the sale of raw materials and the waste of national capital through the development of "industry".

Khorasan Steel Flight; With two wings of "Mining and Industry"

Industry and Mining Day is an opportunity to explain and introduce the achievements and also to express the challenges and successes facing the country's industry, to appreciate the relentless and tireless efforts of men and women in the field of industry and mining. «Khorasan Steel», as one of the important poles of steel production and a valuable link in the mining industry in the east of the country, is determined to pave its way to maintain and improve its position in the country's steel industry. This complex, with the help of God, will improve Khorasan Steel by completing the production chain from the mine to the final product. Khorasan Steel has focused on economic development in the region and has made every effort to achieve the goal of "sustainable steel production." The group believes that focusing on sustainable development and the implementation of comprehensive programs can lead to regional development, job creation, higher added value and the prevention of crude sales. Currently, among the industries and mines of Khorasan Razavi, Khorasan Steel is one of the most economical, sustainable and competitive enterprises. With a direct employment of 2,800 people and thousands of billions of

tomans of annual turnover, this complex covers ten percent of the province's tax revenues. The employment rate, including the transportation sector, reaches 5,000 people. The development of Khorasan Steel has been well-targeted, studied, and revolved around the three axes of "production chain completion," "value-added promotion," and "economies of scale and sustainability and risk reduction." Over the past decade, with the implementation of development projects, all energy infrastructure, rail transportation network, power transmission network and green space have more than doubled. This region has become one of the main poles of the country's steel development.

Practical translation of resistance economics

At the height of the oppressive economic sanctions, Khorasan Steel has managed and implemented over 1,900 billion tomans of projects by local contractors and builders. These actions can be interpreted as "the Iranianization of great deeds and the real examples of the resistance economy" in line with the menus of the Supreme Leader of the Revolution. The company has revamped and modernized Section 1 of Steel Production. The development of new technologies has led to effective steps to reduce energy consumption and improve efficiency. This complex is the largest industrial complex in the east of the country in recent years in the field of environment. It also has the title of national and provincial sample unit. The total investment made by the company so far in the field of environmental protection and "sustainable production", establishment of management systems, installation of equipment to reduce pollution, development and maintenance of green space and cultural activities in this area, is 400 billion tomans. Among the important measures in the field of environment are the 40% reduction of water consumption for irrigation of 270 hectares of green space and the preservation of the ecosystem in this complex. Other honors of this huge industry include winning the Crystal Statue of Organizational Excellence, receiving national awards from the Industrial Sample Unit, Energy Management, Information Technology Management, and more. Along with significant production, sales and export records, the name of this complex has been registered among the top 100 companies in Iran and 50 top stock exchange companies in the country. It is worth mentioning that Khorasan Steel Complex uses the most advanced technology and national and international standards of product and management. The complex produces final steel products and light construction sections, including rebar types (simple and ribbed) with an annual production capacity of 600,000 tons. In addition, it is producing 1.4 tons of steel ingots and other products of the production chain annually, ie 1.6 million tons of sponge iron and 2.5 million tons of pellets per year.

Tir 10, The National Day of

Happy INDUSTRY AND MINE

Public Relations
of Neiriz Ghadir Steel Company

Majlis to Give Appropriate Response to E3

TEHRAN (MNA) – An Iranian lawmaker said the Parliament is monitoring the behavior of the European countries and give an appropriate response to them.

“The path is clear and the history shows that negotiation will not secure our national interests and no talks should be held,” Abbas Moghtadaci, representative of Esfahan and deputy chairman of the Parliament’s National Security and Foreign Policy Commission, said.

“Whenever national interest is served, negotiation will become meaningful,” he added.

The lawmaker went on to say that “Despite all the privileges that the Iranian Foreign Ministry has offered to Westerners, we see today that America and the three European signatories of the JCPOA are clearly acting against the interests of the country.”

COVID-19 Kills Another 162 Iranians

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Health Ministry spokeswoman Sima Sadat Lari said on Monday that some 162 more Iranians have died from coronavirus disease (COVID-19) over the past 24 hours bringing the total deaths to 10,670.

Sadat Lari said that, with the 162 new deaths, the country’s total COVID-19 death toll mounted to 10,670.

Some 2,536 new cases of infection with COVID-19 were found over the past 24 hours, some 1,461 of whom have been hospitalized, she added.

She noted that a total of 225,205 Iranians have been confirmed infected with the COVID-19, some 186,180 of whom have been discharged from hospital or recovered from the disease.

Some 3,037 other COVID-19 patients are in critical condition and being treated in intensive care units, the spokeswoman said.

She added that 1,639,078 tests have so far been carried out in Iran.

Meanister Director-General of Health Ministry’s office for Health-Tech Development Hossein Vatanpour said that a number of Iranian knowledge-based companies are working to prepare Coronavirus vaccine and by the end of this current Iranian year (starting on March 21).

Vatanpour noted on Monday that “Iranian HPV and seasonal flu vaccines will also be produced and offered by the end of this year.”

He further stated that the vaccine environment must be separate, which is being done for the Corona vaccine.



Vatanpour also said, “Currently, three knowledge-based companies are working on the production of the HPV vaccine, which according to their efforts and scientific capacities, this achievement will reach the construction stage by the end of the year.”

The Iranian HPV vaccine, which is used to prevent cervical cancer, was supposed to be produced by the end of 1398 (Last year in Iranian calendar) but was delayed due to some issues, especially the prevalence of coronavirus disease, and by the end of this year, we will see this achievement.

“This vaccine will enter the clinical trial stage immediately after production,” he said, “We hope that Iranian vaccines will successfully pass this stage and be available to everyone.”

So far, around 1, 639, 087 COVID-19 diagnosis tests have been conducted in the country,” the Health Ministry spokeswoman said.

The provinces of Khuzestan, Kurdistan, West and East Azerbaijan, Kermanshah, Hormozgan, Bushehr, and Khorasan Razavi have the most cases of COVID-19 disease and are in the red alert.

The provinces of Ilam, Lorestan, and Golestan are on the Yellow alert.

Iran Forerunner in Fight Against Drugs in World

LONDON (IRNA) - Iran’s Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the International Organizations in Vienna Kazem Gharibabadi on Sunday highlighted his country’s achievements in fighting drug-trafficking, describing it as the forerunner of the campaign against drug trafficking in the world.

Talking to reporters, he referred to the report of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime released last week, saying that according to the report, 644 tons of 704 tons of opium, 25 tons of 97 tons of heroin, and 21 tons of 43 tons of morphine worldwide have been discovered by Iran alone.

With the discovery of a total of 690 tons of 844 tons of opium, heroin and morphine (equivalent to 82%), Iran is the forerunner of seizing opium and its derivatives in the world, Gharibabadi said.

As per the U.S. report, Iran has seized some 100 tons of Hashish in 2018, he said.

Earlier, Gharibabadi said that Iran has been discovering and seizing the largest amount of narcotics, despite U.S. sanctions on equipment to intercept the contraband.

At the meeting of the Narcotics Commission on the occasion of the United Nations International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, he said that despite high economic and human costs, Iran has been actively fighting drug-trafficking over the past four decades.

He added that through 2,319 clashes with drug traffickers, Islamic Republic of Iran dismantled 1,886 gangs and networks involved in the transit and supply of narcotic drugs. Brave and courageous Iranian anti-drug agents were martyred and injured while fighting with traffickers.

IRGC Aerospace Force Ready to Help Car Industry

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – The commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Aerospace Force said the force can provide Iranian automakers with advanced technologies so that they can overcome their shortcomings and reduce their reliance on foreign firms.

In comments during a visit to Iran University of Science and Technology on Monday, Brigadier General Amir Ali Hajizadeh told Tasnim that the IRGC Aerospace Force was ready to give consultations to Iranian carmakers to address their shortcomings in the field of technology and

car parts production.

He described reliance on local capabilities and domestic knowledge-based companies as key to success, and said, “The IRGC has no plans to take the helm at industry sector and start manufacturing cars, but our goal is to extend help and (provide carmakers with) consultations”.

In July 2019, The Iranian Defense Ministry unveiled plans to boost cooperation with domestic companies producing auto parts in a bid to counter economic sanctions against the Islamic Republic’s automotive industry.

Europeans, as Unreliable as U.S.



TEHRAN (IP) - Iran’s chief of Judiciary Ebrahim Raisi said the U.S. is unreliable and noted that as the Leader of the Revolution has repeatedly said Europe is not trustworthy at all, and what we must trust today is Iranian great nation’s achievements.

Noting that the world knows the nature of the U.S.’ human rights, Ebrahim Raisi said the U.S. human rights have been uncovered for the Americans and the people of the West and Europe, as well as for the oppressed nations of the world.

He added the U.S. annoys; murders; loots and massacres people.

Raisi stated Iran knows quite well that the three European countries who have proposed a resolution against Iran to IAEA Boards are the ones that supported the US to assassinate Iranian anti-terrorist commander Lt. Gen. Qasem Soleimani.

Ebrahim Raisi made the remarks on Monday in a meeting with senior judiciary officials.

Iran to Develop Artificial Intelligence Start-ups

TEHRAN (IFP)- Iran’s Vice Presidency for Science and Technology says it is working to increase the number of start-ups in the field of artificial intelligence to nearly 200 in the near future and encourage investors to spend in this sector.

According to the website of the vice presidency, one of the plans for the development of this field is to invest five times more to form new artificial intelligence start-ups.

Holding negotiations with three universities is among the other measures taken during the last few years to set up specialized artificial intelligence laboratories at these universities.

Artificial intelligence is a key technology area in any country, and China, Vietnam, Indonesia, the United States, Thailand, Brazil, France, the United Kingdom, Poland and Italy have grown significantly in this field and have the highest use of this technology, the report said.

The trade volume of this emerging technology is estimated at \$16 trillion by 2030 which is a significant number that makes up one-third of the current global market. This applied technology could affect the lives of most people in the not-too-distant future.

According to global statistics, 47% of all job positions in 2030 will be automated without human presence.

Promotion of Production a Must for Boosting Exports

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Head of Iran’s Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Hamid Zadboum said promoting domestic production is the prerequisite of export development, IRIB reported.

“Exports improve when there is production, and we have to move in the direction of export-based production,” Zadboum said in a press conference on Monday.

According to the official, part of the country’s export problems is structural and because of the lack of export-intended production.

“Based on the estimates, Iran has the capacity to export \$100 billion to the neighboring countries, and this capacity will be exploited only when production is promoted,” the TPO head stressed.

Import management is important along with the development of exports, which means that the value of the industrial imports must decrease and the exports from this sector must increase, Zadboum emphasized.

Mentioning the government’s recent decision on limiting the ceiling of exports for new exporting companies to \$500,000, the official said the government’s intension is not to ban exports but to regulate it.

“The priority is to supply the domestic market and the needs of the people, but exports are also an important part of the economy that must be encouraged with various incentives,” he said.

Referring to the latest situation of the borders with the neighboring countries, Zadboum said: “Turkey’s railway and road borders are open for trade. The Iraqi borders are also open, except for two cases. The border crossings with Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Pakistan are also open”

As for Turkmenistan, currently, there are only a rail and a road border open for trade, he added.



Iran-Turkey Rail Exchange Exceeds %100

TABRIZ (IP)- Director-General of Eastern Azerbaijan’s Railway, northwestern Iran, reported a goods-exchange over 100 percent with Turkey within the first quarter of the current Persian year.

Shapoor Arsalani said on Monday that the amount of cargo exchanged at the Turkish border in the first quarter of the current year reached 242 thousand tons, which shows an increase of 1.35 times compared to the same period in the last year.

Arsalani noted that despite restrictions due to the outbreak of coronavirus, the exchange of goods has increased significantly compared to the same period last year due to the need to supply basic consumer goods.

He said the most important commodities exchanged, imported, exported, and transited during the period were copper soil, petrochemicals, and petroleum products, hardware, wood and paper products, agricultural and food products, and chemicals.

The Iranian transportation official added that all countermeasures for the fleet, the movement of goods, and the labor forces associated with the journey and movement in the General Directorate of Railways of Eastern Azerbaijan are taken in order to prevent the outbreak of the coronavirus carefully and with seriousness.

Iran, France Finalize Date to Read Black Box of Downed Ukrainian Plane

TEHRAN (IFP) - Iran and France have finalized the date to read the black box of a Ukrainian plane that crashed shortly after takeoff from the Iranian capital, Tehran, in early 2020.

“The Iranian Civil Aviation Organization (CAO) has done the necessary correspondence with the air accidents investigation and analysis office of France, and agreements have almost been finalized,” said Mohsen Baharvand, the deputy Iranian foreign minister for legal and international affairs.

“If everything goes like this and no unexpected event comes up, the black box will be taken to France by an aviation team from our country, and work to read and extract information from the black box will get underway on July, 20, 2020,” he said.

“A team of experts and technicians from the Islamic Republic of Iran will lead the research work and the reading of the information will be done under the guidance and supervision of the Iranian team,” he added.

“Of course, other countries which are, one way or another, connected to this tragic event can send a representative to France as an observer,” he added.

Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752 (PS752) was a scheduled international passenger flight from Tehran to Kiev operated by Ukraine International Airlines (UIA).

Basic Commodities Enter Afghanistan Through Iranian Port

CHABAHAR (IRNA) - Some 14 cargo ships have carried basic commodities for Afghanistan via Shahid Beheshti Port in Iranian southeastern city of Chabahar over the past two years, according to a local official.

Behrouz Aghaei, the director of Sistan and Baluchestan Department of Ports and Maritime Organization, said that the ships carrying goods for Afghanistan has had a capacity of Between 10 and 15,000 tons.

After the cargoes are unloaded in Shahid Beheshti Port, they are transited to Afghanistan by trucks, the official said.

He said that India’s all 75,000 tons donated wheat for Afghanistan is due to be sent into the country through Shahid Behesti Port, only five shipments of which have been sent so far.

Chabahar is believed to be the best and economical transit route into Afghanistan and Central Asian countries.



Happy Tir 10, The National Day of Industry and Mine



Baft Steel Project is one of the seven national steel projects. Its executive operation to eliminate deprivation and create jobs in Baft city of Kerman province, with a production capacity of 800,000 tons of sponge iron, was put into operation in April 2019. The investment volume of this project is 4156 billion dollars by Mahan Industries and Mines Development Company as the holding industry and mining in the tourism financial group with the employment rate of 250 people directly and 2000 indirect people in the first phase. The plant works with direct resuscitation technology using the PERED method. The feed of this complex is iron oxide pellets and its product is sponge iron (DRI). Simultaneously with the opening of Phase 1, the Phase 2 project of this project was also inaugurated from China's financial resources and based on the decision of the Economic Council in 2019. The inauguration was attended by the President, the Minister of Silence and the Governor of Kerman. The project was funded by the Organization for the Development and Renovation of Mines and Mining Industries of Iran with an investment volume of 250 million euros. The creation of units to produce 2.5 million tons of pellets and 800,000 tons of sponge iron in the second half of 2022 was also on the agenda. In this plan, employment will be created for 500 people directly and 5,000 people indirectly. Baft Steel Rehabilitation Co. can be considered as one of the most capable companies in the field of sponge iron production in the country. It became a sponge and these honors continued in the year of the production leap, and in April 2020, which was named the year of the production leap by the Supreme Leader, it won the ISO 9001 quality management certification and this was not the end of the road. In June of this year, it broke the production record with a volume of 75,224 tons. This will not be the end of the company's honors. The success of Baft Steel Rehabilitation Company is due to the efforts and efforts of the committed and expert forces, together with the managers, deputies and honorable members of the board of directors. Due to the fact that the cities of Baft, Rabar and Arzouieh are located in the less privileged area of Kerman province, the implementation of this factory was one of the greatest divine gifts for these people. This factory is the largest industrial complex in these cities, which has led to development, prosperity, culture and job creation in this region.

Managing Director and Member of Board of Directors of Baft Steel Company (BASCO)



Khorasan Steel Complex Co.



Happy Tir 10 (June 30), the National Day of

Industry and Mine

Sustainable Stability / Lasting Peace

Khorasan Steel, Producer of Different Types of Light Steel Structural Sections

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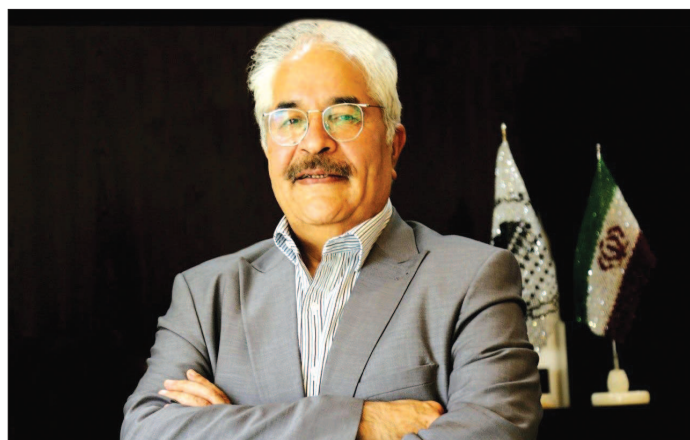
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75,000 billion Rials of Chadormelo Investment



Engineer Nasser Taghizadeh, CEO of Chadormelo Mining and Industrial Company, in an interview, pointed out the need to take measures for the post-Corona period and solutions to the economic crisis. He described the company's plans and programs and the need to remove barriers to development in the mining and steel industries.

He said: "According to the available information and statistics, in the comprehensive steel plan on the horizon of 2025, to produce 55 million tons of steel, we need about 80 million tons of iron ore concentrate." By the end of 2019, production capacity was 59 million tons. On the other hand, it is estimated that 162 million tons of crude iron ore should be extracted in 2025, while in 2018 the amount of iron ore extraction was 87 million tons and in 2019 it was about 93 million tons. Taghizadeh added: The geological reserves of iron ore in Iran are estimated at about 5 billion tons. The amount of definite reserves varies according to the announced statistics and is between 2.5 and 3.3 billion tons. Therefore, if new reserves are not discovered, the supply of iron ore to the steel industry will be less than the desired amount for 2 decades after 2025; Of course, if we produce 80% of the capacity of 55 million tons of steel. The required amount of crude iron ore is 130 million tons. Assuming an annual growth of 1.5 percent of the country's definite reserves, we will have no problem supplying iron ore in the coming years. (This rate in the world in 2018 was about 76.5%). However, in any case, attention to exploration and its continuation, with the support of the government and the private sector, should be at the forefront of the country's plans. The main advantage of the steel production chain in the country is the presence of their main raw material, iron ore. Given the proliferation of steel mills in the country and rail transportation issues, we should not focus on iron ore imports. On the other hand, along with the implementation of exploration projects and access to new sources of iron ore, the development of downstream units

should also be done in a balanced way. Of course, the construction of new steel plants on the southern coast of the country, the main purpose of which is to export manufactured products, is on the agenda of large companies, including Chadormelo. One of these projects is in the port of Chabahar, and its iron ore is sourced from Australia. The CEO of Chadormelo stated: None of the Chadormelo mining and industrial units have been closed during the working days due to the outbreak of corona. With preventive measures and strict health and safety measures in all units, while paying attention to the health of employees and workers, production lines have been working at full capacity. The CEO of Chadormelo stated that Chadormelo Company will focus all its efforts on implementing its production goals and development plans in the current year (1399), which has been named the year of production leap. Engineer Taghizadeh then referred to the ongoing projects and future plans of the company and said: "The most important project being implemented by the company is the exploration, equipping and operation of the D19 anomaly with an investment forecast of 19,000 billion rials."

■ Another project in progress is the construction of a 10 MW solar power plant unit next to the combined cycle power plant in Chadormelo Industrial Complex with an investment of 1000 billion rials.

■ The construction project of pelletizing plant 2 is one of the most important projects in progress. The plant has an annual production capacity of 5 million tons and an investment of 21,000 billion rials.

He also mentioned Chadormelo's development plans this year: Construction of Shahroud Steel Smelting and Casting Unit with a capacity of 100 thousand tons - Continuation of construction of Sarmad Abarkooch Steel Smelting and Casting Unit with a capacity of 650 thousand tons (Steel) Arfa iron and steel in the amount of 200 thousand tons - Increasing the production capacity of the unit (direct recovery) of iron and steel Arfa in the amount of 250 thousand tons and construction of Frosilico Manganese factory with a capacity of 50 thousand tons. Taghizadeh further emphasized on the importance of exploration in development and said: "We intend to increase the production process and meet the needs of the country's steel units by creating an exploration unit and focusing seriously on discovering new iron ore reserves." On the other hand, we are trying to complete the first phase of the Persian Gulf desalination and water transfer project. This project is being implemented with the participation of Gol Gohar, Sarcheshmeh Copper and Chadormelo companies. Industries and residents located in Kerman and Yazd provinces can benefit from fresh water. He cited funding for the company's development projects from internal sources, including shareholders' capital (capital increase) and the country's banking system facilities. He added: The company has so far invested 48500 billion rials directly in the implementation of projects and 26513 billion rials in partnership and purchase of shares of other manufacturing companies and a total of 75000 billion rials. The CEO of Chadormelo

said that another basic step for economic prosperity is to create facilities and provide a platform for exporting steel products. According to iron ore producers, the sale of raw materials means the export of raw iron ore extracted from the mine. This has never been the case in the whole country. Iron ore for use in the steel industry is mainly supplied by long furnace method and direct reduction in granular form in sizes of 10-0 mm (Fine Ore) and 10-25 mm (Lump Ore). It is also standardized and produced and marketed as Pellet Feed Concentrate Iron Ore Concentrate Powder. In Iran, more than 85% of the steel industry is by direct regeneration method, which consumes more than 67% of iron ore concentrate (Fe). The only consumer of granulated iron ore is Isfahan Steel, and if the pricing of iron ore becomes real, domestic producers will certainly prefer to supply their products domestically. He stressed that the realization of the price of iron ore and other steel products is both in favor of the producer and to consume, because then after the saturation of the domestic market, the surplus of products can be exported and foreign exchange earnings can be earned. The activist in the field of iron ore and steel added: "The production of small and low-grade mines is in excess of domestic consumption." These manufacturers have two options: either they have to export their product in order to be able to continue production and job creation, or they have to close the mines. There is also a third way for investors (government or private sector) to build a processing plant and buy iron ore from mines and produce and supply products with the right grade. This is not welcomed by investors due to the scattering of these mines throughout the country and the unjustifiability of the project. Of course, this is to be done by forming consortia. Taghizadeh added: "In general, I do not agree with the export of raw materials, but if we have a surplus of domestic consumption, it is better to export it without imposing duties, in order to prevent the closure and cessation of mining production and unemployment while devaluing and implementing development projects." It should be noted that most mines are in outlying areas. The iron ore producers' suggestion is that the government should not interfere in the affairs of private iron ore companies and small mine producers, such as pricing, quotas, and export duties. We are able to reach an agreement with the steelmakers, not for the government to set a price base for the private sector and release prices. We keep the domestic market and exports together. There is no need to impose export duties. Currently, two mining and industrial companies, Chadormelo and Gol Gohar, produce about 54% of the country's iron ore concentrate, and their first priority is to provide the country's consumer concentrate for pelletizing. The two companies, which were privatized in the 1990s, have implemented plans to increase production and development without relying on the government and development budgets, but in recent years they have faced issues related to pricing and proprietary interest.

Russia's Daily Number of New Coronavirus Cases Falls

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russia on Sunday reported 6,791 new coronavirus cases, a figure that keeps the daily rise below 7,000 for a third day in a row for the first time since late April. The new cases take the cumulative nationwide tally to 634,437.

The country's coronavirus response centre said 104 people had died of the virus in the last 24 hours, bringing the death toll to 9,073.



Guinea-Bissau President Sacks Five Ministers

BISSAU (Reuters) - Guinea-Bissau President Umaro Sissoco Embalo has dismissed five government ministers, including the ministers of defence and the interior, according to a decree released on Sunday.

He did not state the reason for the dismissal of the ministers, who are all members of Embalo's MADEM-15 party or parties loyal to the president.

The move heightens the political uncertainty in the tiny West African nation, where Embalo's declared electoral win after a December vote has been contested by runner-up Domingos Simoes Pereira and his powerful PAIGC party.



France's Greens Make Gains, Macron Loses Ground in Local Elections

PARIS (Dispatches) - France's Greens appeared set for major gains Sunday in local elections marked by record-low turnout and the failure of President Emmanuel Macron's ruling party to make any significant impact.

Projections based on early vote counts showed Europe Ecology, The Greens party (EELV), poised to take the key cities of Lyon, Bordeaux and Strasbourg and in a very close contest for Lille.

Macron expressed his concern over the high abstention rate, estimated at about 60 percent, and acknowledged that the elections were marked by a "green wave", the presidency said.

Government spokeswoman Sibeth Ndiaye spoke of "disappointment" over the poor showing of the centrist Republic on the Move (LREM) party Macron created shortly before his successful 2017 presidential run.

This is the first time it had competed in nationwide local elections.

"There are places... where our own internal divisions brought us to results that were extremely disappointing," Ndiaye told French television.

The party's candidate in Paris, Agnes Buzyn, was projected to come a distant third with incumbent Socialist mayor Anne Hidalgo on course to easily win a second term as mayor of the French capital.

Marine Le Pen's National Rally, meanwhile, claimed victory in the southern city of Perpignan, in what would be the first far-right takeover of a French city of more than 100,000 inhabitants since 1995.

The biggest coup for the Greens would be ousting former minister Martine Aubry as mayor of the northern city of Lille. But her entourage insisted to AFP that she had clung on in a knife-edge vote.

Some 16.5 million eligible voters cast ballots in nearly 5,000 cities and towns where the first round of municipal voting, on March 15, had failed to yield a decisive outcome.

This represents about 15 percent of the country's municipal councils where power remained up for grabs.

But estimates showed that only two in five voters turned up, an abstention rate that Le Pen described as "astonishing" and far-left leader Jean-Luc Melenchon said amounted to "a civic strike".

Macron said the low turnout was "not very good news," according to the Elysee.

The first election round, which took place as the COVID-19 pandemic was gaining deadly momentum, already yielded a record-low 55-percent abstention rate.

The second phase, originally scheduled for March 22, was postponed after France went into lockdown. Most restrictions have now been eased.



Polish President Duda Faces Tough Run-Off Vote on July 12

WARSAW (Dispatches) - Poland's nationalist incumbent Andrzej Duda won the first round of a presidential election on Sunday but will have to face the centrist mayor of Warsaw in a run-off on July 12, in a race that could transform the nation's ties with the European Union.

Poland's nationalist incumbent Andrzej Duda won the first round of a presidential election on Sunday but will have to face the centrist mayor of Warsaw in a run-off on July 12, in a race that could transform the nation's ties with the European Union. The re-election of government ally Duda is crucial if the ruling nationalist Law and Justice (PiS) party is to implement further its socially conservative agenda, including judiciary reforms the EU says contravene democratic standards.

An exit poll showed Duda winning 41.8% of ballots on Sunday, against 30.4% for Rafal Trzaskowski from the Civic Platform party. Final results could differ slightly but any changes are not expected to affect who will compete in the second round. Two opinion polls conducted late on Sunday for private broadcaster TVN and the state-run TVP showed Duda having a lead of less than 2 percentage points over Trzaskowski in two weeks.

PiS has cast Duda as the guardian of its generous welfare programmes, which have helped it win national elections in 2015 and 2019, and of its pledge to protect traditional family values in predominantly Catholic Poland.

A devout believer himself, Duda had campaigned on a promise to ban classes about gay rights in schools, saying LGBT "ideology" was worse than communist doctrine.

"The campaign goes on because Poland needs it," Duda told jubilant supporters in the central town of Lowicz. "Some people have a complex and think we are not Europeans. We are, and have been... since we converted to Christianity."

دوم تیرماه
روز صنعت و معدن
30 June 2020
Industry and Mine National Day
Zob Rooy Sadid Zanzan co.

Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO)
Happy Tir 10, The National Day of Industry and Mine
صنعت و معدن
The CEO of Khorasan Razavi Industrial Towns Company announced:
9% of Employment in the Country's industrial Estates has Been Created in Khorasan Razavi
The CEO of Khorasan Razavi Industrial Towns Company said: 9% of the total employment in the country's industrial towns is located in the industrial towns of Khorasan Razavi. According to the public relations of Khorasan Razavi Industrial Towns Company, "Masoud Mehdizadeh Moghaddam" during his visit to Chenaran Industrial Town, stated: In 40 towns and industrial areas, 2,682 industrial units have been handed over to land applicants in industrial towns. They work. Referring to the employment created for 2,121 people last year, he added: "Currently, more than 77,000 people are working in the industrial towns of Khorasan Razavi province, and 9% of the total employment in the country's industrial towns has been created in this province." Mehdizadeh Moghaddam continued: "The existence of the province's unique capacities, as well as university research and development centers and industrial units, as well as the new technologies of the province's knowledge-based companies, are great opportunities that we must use for more employment." He said: "The view of the Small Industries and Industrial Towns Organization of Iran to more employment in less developed areas." Appropriate benefits and incentives for the development of these areas, especially for productive employment, are expected to be exploited by investors and applicants in these areas. The Chairman and CEO of Khorasan Razavi Industrial Towns Company noted: "Small and medium industries have caused the dynamism of the industry, generated productive employment and economic growth, and have also created a good industrial added value for artisans and investors."



Velenjak Apt (\$2500)
230sq.m, 3bdrs
S/pool, Sauna
J, balcony
marble fl
Fully Furn

Shanon (adviser)

Jordan Villa (\$5000)
1000sq.m
5bdrs, S/p
S, J, balcony
green yard
Fully Furn

Parsian

Farmanieh (\$1800) 160sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p, S, J, & F.F
Zaferanieh (\$2200) 200sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p, S, J, & F.F
Sa'adat abad (\$1400) 130sq.m, 2bdrs, S/p, S, J, & F.F
Gheitarieh (\$2000) 150sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p, S, J, & F.F

Elahieh (\$2000)
200sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p
S, J, balcony, & F.F

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World Bank Approves \$350m Loan for Ukraine

KYIV (Reuters) - The World Bank has approved a \$350 million loan for Ukraine in support of reforms that are critical to its economic recovery and to help mitigate the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, the bank said. Ukrainian government said earlier this month it expected to receive this loan by the end of June after securing a \$5 billion loan programme from the International Monetary Fund on June 9. The bank said late on Friday that the key reforms supported by the loan included a strengthening land and credit markets, fostering anti-corruption institutions and bolstering the social safety net for the vulnerable elderly population to cushion the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Coronavirus-Induced Economic Crisis Could Test \$1 Trillion War Chest

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - International Monetary Fund Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said on Friday that the global economic crisis spurred by the coronavirus could ultimately test the Fund's \$1 trillion in total resources, "but we're not there yet."

Georgieva told a Reuters Newsmaker webcast event that it was now clear that an economic recovery would have to get underway without a medical breakthrough and the virus' presence still widespread throughout the world. IMF member countries were standing by to provide more support to the Fund if necessary, she said. The IMF on Tuesday forecast a deeper global recession than initially anticipated, as business closures, travel restrictions and social distancing measures persist in most countries. It now anticipates a global GDP contraction of 4.9% this year and a total output loss of \$12 trillion through the end of 2021.

"We still have about three quarters of our lending capacity available," Georgieva said. "I wouldn't put it beyond us that we might be in a place where the IMF resources are being tested, but we're not there yet."

Regarding the possibility of additional resources, she said: "Our members are telling us, 'Everything is on the table. You come to us if you need to do more of something, we are there for you.'"

The IMF has been rapidly deploying some \$100 billion in emergency financing and has now provided loans and grants to 72 countries in just over seven weeks, Georgieva said.

The Fund later on Friday approved a new, \$5.2 billion 12-month loan program aimed at helping Egypt to cope with the coronavirus and plug budget and balance of payment gaps.

The IMF is providing technical assistance to Argentina in the country's debt negotiations with private creditors.

"What I learned as a crisis commissioner: pray for the best, prepare for the worst," she said of the talks. The Fund stands ready to negotiate a new program to replace Argentina's \$57 billion 2018 bailout, one that is good for growth, the private sector and poverty reduction, Georgieva added.

China's Economy Opening Further to Foreign Investors

BEIJING (Dispatches) - China is opening more industries to foreign investors with the release of new shortened negative lists, as part of the country's effort to spur the coronavirus-hit economy and create more opportunities for foreign investors, said the country's top economic regulator.

Negative lists indicate areas where investment is prohibited or restricted, and all other areas are presumed to be open. Experts said the updated negative lists for foreign investment access will help bolster foreign investment, create a better business environment and foster high-quality development.

The National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Commerce have jointly released two updated negative lists for 2020, which will take effect on July 23. The number of items on the nationwide list has been cut from 40 to 33, while the one for free trade zones has 30 items, down from 37.

Amid the disruption surrounding cross-border investment and the global economy due to the COVID-19 outbreak, China's policy remains unchanged with respect to opening wider to the outside world and the country will continue to improve market access for foreign investment, said a statement from the NDRC.

The new move demonstrates China's firm attitude to support economic globalization and cross-border investment, which will further improve the business environment for foreign enterprises and promote high-quality growth through greater openness, according to the NDRC.

"Shortening the negative list for foreign investment access is a key move to further opening-up and ease market access. And it is conducive to stabilizing and bolstering foreign investment amid the globally spreading coronavirus outbreak and mounting downside pressure," said Cui Fan, a professor at the School of International Trade and Economics of the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing.

Pakistan Announces Record Rise in Fuel Prices

ISLAMABAD (Dispatches) - Pakistan has announced a record increase in fuel prices days before the end of a fiscal year in which the country's economy contracted for the first time in 68 years as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

The hike, which ranges from 27 per cent to 66 per cent depending on the petroleum product, was announced on Friday night. It drew nationwide condemnation from people on social media on Saturday.

The move comes two weeks after Islamabad said its GDP in the outgoing fiscal year ending on June 30 will shrink by 0.4 per cent, instead of an initially projected 2.4 per cent growth.

Pakistan's economy has witnessed a steady decline since 2018, when Prime Minister Imran Khan's government came into power.

Its economy has been affected by the coronavirus since March, when Khan put the country under lockdown. Restrictions were eased in May, causing a spike in coronavirus infections and deaths.

Pakistan has confirmed 198,883 virus cases, including 4,035 deaths. The Rs7.13 trillion tax-free deficit federal budget was presented in the National Assembly on June 12, 2020, with its major portions allocated for debt servicing and defence.

Federal Industries Minister Hammad Azhar read out the budget amid continued slogan chanting by the opposition members, who displayed a large number of placards to register their protest. They reminded Prime Minister Imran Khan, who was in attendance, about his promises. They later boycotted the proceedings.

No increase in the government employees' salaries and pensions of retired civil servants was announced for the first time after many years.

The government servants had been protesting for the past few weeks demanding raise.

"The entire world is suffering from the virus, even the most developed countries in the world," said Azhar. "Pakistan continues to suffer from not just the virus but also from an economic point of view. But we haven't given up and will continue to take actions to lift up our economy hurt by coronavirus lockdowns."

For the first time, Pakistan's economy contracted in the outgoing fiscal year due to adverse impact of the novel coronavirus coupled with economic stabilisation policies that had hit the industrial sector much before the deadly pandemic.

"After assuming charge in August 2018, the government kicked off efforts to improve the economy. Our aim was to eliminate corruption, improve institutions and strengthen the economy," the minister said. He said that the State Bank of Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves had slipped from \$18 billion to less than \$10 billion.

Germany Can Afford More Debt to Fund EU Recovery



BERLIN (Dispatches) - German Chancellor Angela Merkel says her country can afford to take more debt to help fund an unprecedented economic recovery program for the European Union, because it's in Germany's own interest to see the bloc thrive.

In an interview with six European newspapers released Friday, the long-time German leader said that "the coronavirus pandemic is confronting us with a challenge of unprecedented dimensions."

The EU's economies, like those of countries around the world, have slumped dramatically since the start of the outbreak. Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron last month proposed creating a one-off 500 billion-euro recovery fund that would be filled through shared borrowing with other EU member countries. Such a move breaks with Germany's long-standing opposition to joint borrowing.

In her interview with Germany's Sueddeutsche Zeitung, Britain's Guardian, Le Monde in France, Italy's La Stampa, La Vanguardia from Spain and Poland's Polityka newspaper, Merkel said it was right that those countries that have been particularly hard-hit by the pandemic should receive special consideration from the recovery fund.

"For Italy and Spain, for example, the coronavirus pandemic signifies a huge burden in economic, medical and, of course, because of the many lives lost, emotional terms," she said. "In these circumstances, it is only right for Germany to think not just about itself but to be prepared to engage in an extraordinary act of solidarity." Merkel insisted that while the fund "cannot solve all of Europe's problems," without it they would only get worse.

"Germany had a low debt ratio and can afford, in this extraordinary situation, to take on some more debt," she said, adding: "It is in Germany's interest to have a strong internal market and to have the European Union grow closer together, not fall apart. As ever, what's good for Europe is good for us."

Global Oil Markets in Healthier Place

DUBAI (Dispatches) - The global oil markets are in a "healthier place" compared to two months ago as renewed industrial and commercial activity fuels demand for crude and other products, according to the group chief executive of Abu Dhabi National Oil Company.

"Some [purchasing managers indexes] actually are inching above the crucial 50 mark for the first time since Covid-19 started, and they are pointing towards economic

expansion, once again, and that is also being reflected in the oil markets, which have clearly tightened in the very recent weeks," Dr Sultan Al Jaber, who is also a UAE Minister of State, told a web panel discussion organised by the World Government Summit.

"If you look back, where we were just two or two and a half months ago, oil markets are in a much healthier place today," he added.

EU Signs Off on Italy's \$8.5B Tax Relief Plan

ROME (Dispatches) - European Union antitrust officials approved the Italian government's €7.6 billion (\$8.5 billion) package of tax relief measures designed to ease the financial constraints on companies affected by the novel coronavirus pandemic.

The European Commission said it greenlighted Italy's measures — a mix of tax exemptions and credits — designed to help cash-strapped businesses impacted by steps the Italian government had taken to limit the spread of the virus, which causes the respiratory disease COVID-19. As the EU's competition watchdog, the commission approved Italy's aid package under its temporary framework to review state aid issued in response to the pandemic.

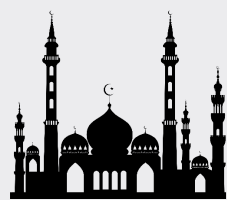
"With this set of measures ... Italy will further support companies and self-employed workers that are severely affected by the coronavirus outbreak by easing their liquidity constraints through tax waivers and tax credits," EU competition chief Margrethe Vestager said in a statement. According to the commission, Italy's aid package partially waives local taxes on production activities for businesses making less than €250 million, with some exceptions, and provides tax credits to encourage workplaces to adopt new sanitary requirements. The relief measures also include an exemption from municipal taxes related to tourist properties, such as sea resorts, and tax credits for companies and self-employed workers depending on revenue levels in relation to rent, the commission said.

The commission noted the measures are part of a wider package to support the Italian economy in the context of the coronavirus outbreak, set out in the so-called Decreto Rilancio, or Relaunch Decree. The program includes urgent health measures, support for businesses and workers and other social policy measures, according to the Italian government.

In explaining its approval of Italy's measures under the temporary framework, the commission said the aid wouldn't exceed €100,000 per company active in the primary agricultural sector and would only be granted to companies that weren't struggling in late December, among other factors.



The commission adopted its temporary framework in March, announcing at the time that the system allows member states to "use the full flexibility foreseen under state aid rules to support the economy in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak." The framework includes safeguards to keep a level playing field among countries, including requirements that subsidized business loans be linked to the scale of companies' economic activity, according to the commission.



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	13:07
■ Evening (Maghreb)	20:45
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:06
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	05:52

15. And that cry of theirs ceased not, till We made them as a field that is mown,
as ashes silent and quenched.
16. Not for (idle) sport did We create the heavens and the earth and all that is between!
Surah 21. The Prophets (15 - 16)

Malaysia Can Be Global Leader in Sustainable and Inclusive Development

KUALA LUMPUR (Dispatches) - The challenge of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was already daunting enough. According to the United Nations, emerging economies alone need at least US\$3.9 trillion per year to attain all 17 goals by 2030. And this is a pre-Covid-19 era estimate.

Meaning, the Malaysian government's social economic response, while bold and comprehensive, might not be enough to cushion the worst consequences of the economic crisis induced by Covid-19. The World Bank's June edition of the Malaysia Economic Monitor forecasts the country's gross domestic product (GDP) will decline by 3.1 per cent this year.

So it is not surprising that the government postponed the tabling of the 12th Malaysia Plan, which was due in August. Certainly, Malaysia has a lot of catching up to do in achieving sustainable and greener development. Even before the pandemic, Malaysia had presented its National Voluntary Review, the national reporting mechanism on the SDGs, only once, in 2017.

If Malaysia has been living in a status of complacency for years, the fallout from the pandemic can provide it with the much-needed impetus. The 12th Malaysia Plan should be geared towards creating an enabling environment to attract SDG-focused investments. Ensuring the pursuit of a New Inclusive Green Deal is going to be the hallmark of new economic planning.

Financing is going to be an issue, though. A recent report by the World Bank titled "Transformative Climate Finance: A New Approach for Climate Finance to Achieve Low-carbon Resilient Development in Developing Countries", explicitly calls for leveraging new sources of funding in order to empower a green revolution.

How to create new green infrastructure, massively promote renewable energy while addressing the now even more marked inequalities? Islamic financing and Islamic philanthropy can surely help. Malaysia knows the sector well because it has been trying for years to turn Kuala Lumpur into the world capital of Islamic finance.

At the recent annual conference of the Asian Venture Philanthropy Association, Islamic financing and philanthropy received due recognition. Khaled Khalifa, a senior officer with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, said Islamic financing and philanthropy, with its Refugee Zakat Fund, has a huge potential to alleviate poverty.

Its value is between US\$300 billion and a trillion a year. Every dollar paid in cash from Islamic financing in Lebanon by the UN agency resulted in a 2.1-dollar increase in local GDP in the targeted areas without affecting inflation.

The Islamic Development Bank recently raised US\$1.5 billion to launch its first Sustainability Sukuk, similar to a bond, to help developing nations tackle the effects of the pandemic. Malaysia must extend its "ease of doing business" approach to Islamic financing because the needs are going to be huge.



It is extremely positive that the government recently launched the Sukuk Prihatin scheme that will support rural schools' connectivity and women-led micro enterprises.

The new 12th Malaysia Plan should not just be an edited version of what was supposed to be presented in August. Centred on the SDGs, it should instead be an ambitious document that envisions how the country will create the most conducive environment to attract "impact" investments, bankrolling a new, truly inclusive and sustainable economy.

As highlighted by Saleh Mubarak Bazead of Nama Foundation at the AVPN event, Islamic financing and philanthropy complements other forms of capital, including other types of faith-based investments. Islamic financing is, at its core, one of the best forms of impact investment.

Bringing in more Islamic capital will automatically attract ethical capital from everywhere else. While politically speaking, it is an uncertain time in Malaysia, re-envisioning a national economy centred on the SDGs should become a bipartisan effort.

The stakes couldn't be higher. Fitch Solutions Country Risk and Industry Research recently blamed the political instability for the national economy's worrying prospects in the years ahead. Progressive public policies and the much-needed capital to put them into practice will require the stewardship of the political class.

Cooperation and dialogue will be required to prove the damning Fitch Solutions report wrong, ensuring Malaysia can become a global leader in sustainable and inclusive development.

Euro Zone Needs Loose Monetary Policy Until Inflation Goal Near



PARIS (Reuters) - The European Central Bank will need to keep monetary policy loose until its inflation target is clearly in sight, European Central Bank policymaker Francois Villeroy de Galhau said on Sunday in an interview with German newspaper Handelsblatt.

Inflation in Europe's single currency bloc is at its weakest in four years, standing at 0.1% in May and forecast to average 0.3% in 2020, far below the ECB's target of close to but less than 2%.

"We will need a very loose monetary policy until that objective is in plain sight," Villeroy said in the interview.

Villeroy, who is also the governor of France's central bank, said the coronavirus crisis was increasing the deflationary risks weighing on the euro zones' economies, mainly because demand was recovering more slowly than supply.

He said it was out of the question to "give in to fiscal domination" and distort monetary policy so as to lighten the burden of public debt.

But he said the inflation objective could be clarified during a strategic review on being symmetric, meaning an equal tolerance of undershooting the target as of overshooting it.

Villeroy said the review would bring more credibility to the target.

He also expressed optimism a solution would be found following a ruling by Germany's Constitutional Court over ECB bond purchases that sent shockwaves around Europe.

In its May ruling, the court gave the ECB three months to justify bond purchases under its stimulus programme or lose the Bundesbank as a participant.

"There is now hope that a solution to respond to Karlsruhe is close," Villeroy said, referring to the top court.

Asked if the ECB should buy junk debt as part of its bond purchases, Villeroy said: "I exclude that we buy bonds that were 'junk' before the crisis."

Global Virus Infections Top 10 Million

PARIS (AFP) - Global infections from the novel coronavirus have surpassed 10 million as the rate of new cases surges, according to an AFP tally on Sunday.

One million new cases were recorded in only six days, according to the AFP count, just as countries start to unwind punishing lockdowns that have devastated their economies and thrown millions out of work.

The worldwide death toll from the disease that first emerged in China about six months ago is also nearing 500,000 as fears grow of a full-blown second wave.

The United States, the hardest hit country, has surpassed 2.5 million cases alone, as efforts to reopen the world's economic powerhouse were set back by a jump in new infections in states such as Florida.

Infections are also up in some other parts of the world that have reopened, with Europe now registering over 2.6 million, according to the AFP tally based on official sources.

China on Sunday imposed a strict lockdown on nearly half a million people in a province surrounding Beijing to contain a fresh coronavirus cluster.

Beijing city official Xu Hejian told reporters that the situation was "severe and complicated," warning that the city needed to continue tracing the spread of the virus.

The tension between reopening battered economies -- efforts pushed in the US by President Donald Trump -- and public health is a source of debate in nearly every country.

On Saturday alone the U.S. recorded more than 43,000 new cases, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. US deaths now exceed 125,000, approximately one-quarter the world total of almost 499,000.

Across the Atlantic, the EU on Saturday pushed back a decision on a list of "safe countries" from which travellers can visit Europe -- a list which could exclude the US.

Meanwhile stars including Coldplay, Miley Cyrus and Jennifer Hudson lent support to a European Commission-led drive Saturday that raised 6.15 billion euros (\$6.9 billion) to support vaccine research and help make it available to poorer countries. In India, densely populated cities have been particularly hard hit. The country set a daily record Saturday with 18,500 new cases and 385 deaths. Total infections are at 509,000, with more than 15,600 deaths. In the Middle East, the governor of Bethlehem announced that the Palestinian city would temporarily close due to rising infections.

The disease also continues to rampage through Latin America, with Peru topping 9,000 deaths Saturday.

Brazil -- the second hardest-hit country after the US -- recorded 990 deaths on Saturday, the highest toll in the world that day, while Mexico recorded the second highest at 719. In the U.S. state of Florida, Republican Governor Ron DeSantis has conceded there has been an "explosion" in new cases.

On Saturday the "Sunshine State" notched 9,585 cases in 24 hours, a new daily record.

The average age of people infected has dropped sharply -- to 33 from 65 two months ago. Young people frustrated by months of confinement have poured back to the state's beaches, boardwalks and bars, often without masks and seemingly unconcerned about social distancing.

Miami announced beaches will close over the July 4 holiday weekend and bars are also shutting their doors. With Trump struggling to lift his re-election bid off the ground ahead of November, the campaign confirmed that events featuring Vice President Mike Pence in Arizona and Florida next week have been postponed "out of an abundance of caution."

Russian Mining Giant Admits Waste Violations at Arctic Plant

MOSCOW (AFP) - A Russian mining giant behind an enormous Arctic fuel spill last month said Sunday it had suspended workers at a metals plant who were responsible for pumping wastewater into nearby tundra.

Norilsk Nickel cited a "flagrant violation of operating rules" in a statement announcing it had suspended employees responsible for dumping wastewater from a dangerously full reservoir into wildlife.

The incident occurred at the Talnakh enrichment plant near the Arctic city of Norilsk, the company said, one month after the unprecedented fuel leak sparked a state of emergency declared by President Vladimir Putin. More than 21,000 tonnes of diesel leaked from a fuel storage tank at one of the company's subsidiary plants near Norilsk. The fuel seeped

into the soil and dyed nearby waterways bright red.

A source told Interfax news agency Sunday that in the most recent case, around 6,000 cubic meters of liquid used to process minerals at the facility had been dumped and that the discharge had lasted "several hours".

It was impossible to determine how far the wastewater had dispersed, the source said. Independent newspaper Novaya Gazeta published videos from the scene showing large metal pipes carrying wastewater from the reservoir and dumping foaming liquid into nearby trees.

The journalists claimed the factory deliberately funnelled the wastewater into wildlife areas and hastily removed their pipes when investigators and emergency services arrived on the scene.

Tehran-Beijing...

FROM PAGE 1

"One of the clauses of the document stated that the two countries should have a comprehensive strategic document for their cooperation in all fields. During Zarif's visit to China last year, the draft of the document was notified to the Chinese authorities, and the review was carried out several times, and recently the draft was approved inside the country," Mousavi said.

Mousavi noted, "I reject all speculations in this regard. None of the facts mentioned in the media and by individuals are true. Based on the strategic view, we are trying to define the long-term relationship with friendly and close countries, and we are ready to sign such documents with other countries that have friendly and good relations with us based on respect and mutual interests, and we are negotiating with some."

The spokesman said, "I feel it is a document that can be published in full in the future. The various dimensions of political and especially economic cooperation are in this document, and if it is finalized in the governments of the two countries, it can be published and nothing is ambiguous. Strategic cooperation between Iran and China have enemies who make machination and are trying to destroy these relations."

In response to a question about the extension of Iran's arms embargo, Mousavi said, "The type of interaction between Europe and the United States has nothing to do with us and we are not willing to give up our rights."

"In the consultations, we had with other members of the Security Council, are all against US claims and have condemned it. We anticipate another failure for the United States in this regard," the spokesman said, noting that we recommend that once bitten, twice shy."

Mousavi about the use of the trigger mechanism by the U.S. said, "Two or three special measures have been planned that will be decided according to the circumstances. I think there would be no need to restore these measures, and I hope that there is so much wisdom that the U.S. not take steps in this regard. The U.S. action will not succeed at this point."

He further pointed out Iran's relations with Venezuela, said, "These relations are formal, normal and have nothing to do with other countries and the interests of other countries. Our relations are ordinary relations among two independent countries that will continue according to our ties. In our view, this was not a strange thing, and it was a normal trade between Iran and one country in another part of the world."

Iran Denies...

FROM PAGE 1

"In accordance with the provisions of the agreements between the two countries, the matter was referred to the International Court of Arbitration in Switzerland. The arbitrator announced his decision to both parties on June 24, 2020.

"According to the rules of arbitration, this decision cannot be disseminated by any of the parties to the dispute, except with the agreement of the parties.

"It is important to note that the current dispute between Turkmengaz and the National Iranian Gas Company is only one dispute over the exact amount of debt owed to Turkmengaz and the National Iranian Gas Company's claims related to the quantity and quality of Turkmenistan's exported gas to Iran. Therefore, this commercial lawsuit has no winner or loser.

"What can be said about the outcome is that the issued judgement has different dimensions, in some cases the views of Turkmengaz Company and in some cases the views of the National Iranian Gas Company have been sustained.

"It is emphasized that, contrary to some rumor mills, the National Iranian Gas Company has not been subject to payment of any fines, as Turkmengaz's request did not concern imposition of a fine on NIGC. As mentioned above, the only issue discussed in the arbitration was investigation of the debt of the National Iranian Gas Company to Turkmengaz for the gas received from Turkmengaz until the date of gas cut-off and the determination of the exact amount of fines on Turkmengaz concerning the quantity and quality of the delivered gas.

"However, we have always believed in resolving issues and disputes through negotiation, but referring a commercial case to arbitration is a common practice in international trade to resolve disputes.

"We hope that this ruling will pave the way for further development of relations between the two friendly and neighboring countries."

Evans Beats Edmund In Battle of Brits final

LONDON (Reuters) - Dan Evans beat Kyle Edmund in the final of the Battle of the Brits exhibition tournament on Sunday. The 30-year-old won 6-3 6-2 in the behind-closed-doors event played at the National Tennis Centre in west London. Evans had beaten former world number one Andy Murray in Saturday's semi-final. The 33-year-old Murray, who was playing his first event since November, withdrew from his third-place playoff match against Cameron Norrie after a busy week.

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ISSN 1024-6053

P.O. Box: 15875-8551

Address: No 13, Pajouhesh St., Golestan II St, Golestan St.Marzdaran Blvd., Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Printed by: Honar Sarzmin Sabz

Distributed by:

Cities of Iran Cultural and Artistic Institute

Managing Director: Fereydoon Taherpour Asl

S. Korea to Allow Limited Number of Fans at Sports Games

SEOUL (Dispatches) – South Korea said Sunday it will begin allowing limited numbers of spectators at sports games as it seeks to return to normal after months of strict social distancing rules to combat the coronavirus. The country endured one of the worst early outbreaks of the disease outside China but appears to have brought it broadly under control with an extensive “trace, test and treat” program while never imposing a compulsory lockdown.

Chelsea, Arsenal Move Into FA Cup Semifinals

LONDON (AFP) - Chelsea moved into the FA Cup semi-finals as Ross Barkley sealed a 1-0 win at Leicester, while Arsenal joined their London rivals in the last four after a dramatic 2-1 victory against Sheffield United on Sunday.

Looking to win the first trophy of Frank Lampard's reign, Chelsea recovered from a woeful start at the King Power Stadium.

The Blues could easily have been behind before the break, but Lampard rang the changes at half-time and Barkley -- one of the players introduced -- grabbed the winner with a cool finish.

Chelsea's quarter-final success could be a good omen for the Blues, who beat Leicester at the same stage en route to winning the competition for the eighth and most recent time in 2018.

Lampard made six changes to the team that handed the Premier League title to Liverpool with a victory over Manchester City on Thursday.

Chelsea were initially out of sorts as a result and Leicester's Harvey Barnes had a sight of goal inside 30 seconds, the winger's heavy touch letting the ball squirt away as he prepared to shoot.

It was a sluggish start from Chelsea and Blues defender Antonio Rudiger angrily admonished his team-mates after snuffing out a Youri Tielemans raid.

Christian Pulisic had scored in each of Chelsea's first two games since the restart and the United States winger led their response with a fierce strike that Kasper Schmeichel tipped over.

Lampard still wasn't satisfied and sent on Barkley, Mateo Kovacic and Cesar Azpilicueta at half-time.

Chelsea looked more vibrant after the changes, with Kovacic dominating in midfield.

Pressing harder and breaking with purpose, Chelsea took the lead in the 63rd minute.

William swung in a teasing cross from the right and Barkley got in front of Evans to guide a clinical finish past Schmeichel.

At Bramall Lane, Dani Ceballos fired Arsenal into last four alongside Chelsea and Manchester United.

Mikel Arteta's side rode their luck after surviving a second-half barrage from the Blades.

Nicolas Pepe put Arsenal ahead with a first-half penalty after Chris Basham fouled Alexandre Lacazette.

David McGoldrick equalised with three minutes left, but on-loan Real Madrid midfielder Ceballos settled it in



the final moments.

Arteta was Arsenal's captain when they won the FA Cup final against Hull in 2014.

Meanwhile Kevin de Bruyne's first-half penalty and a superb strike by Raheem Sterling after the break earned holders Manchester City a comfortable 2-0 win away at Newcastle United in the weekend's last FA Cup quarter-final on Sunday.

City's domination of the first half was absolute and the only surprise was it took a penalty for them to lead at halftime, De Bruyne slotting home in the 37th minute.

Newcastle did improve marginally after the break and substitute Dwight Gayle somehow missed a gaping goal.

One minute later Sterling curled home a delightful effort to seal City's progress and set up a semi-final against Arsenal.

All four of this year's Cup quarter-finals, all played behind closed doors, were won by the away team — the first time that has happened since 1987.

Manchester United will face Chelsea in the other semi-final.

Revised ATP Calendar Not Safe for Players



LONDON (Reuters) - Three-times Grand Slam champion Andy Murray said the ATP's revised calendar which includes seven tournaments in as many weeks is not safe for players, who will be forced to skip major events due to the crammed schedule.

The ATP tour, which was suspended in March due to the novel coronavirus outbreak, is set restart on Aug. 14 with the Citi Open, followed by the Cincinnati Masters, which will be held at Flushing Meadows before the U.S. Open.

The men's claycourt swing will start on Sept. 8 in Kitzbuhel followed by Masters tournaments in Madrid and Rome on Sept. 13 and Rome Masters on Sept. 20, with the French Open set to begin a week later.

"It's not safe for players to go from the semi-finals or final in New York... and then play in Madrid at altitude on clay when they haven't competed for a long time," Murray told a news conference during the 'Battle of the Brits' charity tournament.

"You're going to have the potential where a lot of top players are not competing at many of the biggest events."

The 33-year-old said with events coming thick and fast changes would need to be made with respect to players' ranking points.

Inter Rally to Beat Parma

MILAN (AFP) - Alessandro Bastoni completed Inter Milan's late turnaround as they scored twice in the final six minutes to beat Parma 2-1 on Sunday, while Atalanta made it three wins in a row since the Serie A restart.

Gervinho gave Parma a first-half lead at the Stadio Ennio Tardini but Inter, who conceded a last-gasp equaliser at home to Sassuolo in midweek, fought back with headers from Stefan de Vrij and Bastoni to snatch a vital win.

Inter stay eight points adrift of leaders Juventus and four behind Lazio in second with 10 rounds of matches remaining.

"I thought it was a more than deserved victory. Thoroughly deserved," Inter assistant Cristian Stellini told Sky Sport Italia, with coach Antonio Conte forced to watch from the stands as he served a touchline ban.

Atalanta consolidated their grip on fourth place thanks to two stunning goals from Luis Muriel, who came on as a second-half substitute in their 3-2 victory at Udinese.

The Colombia international put his team back ahead with a magnificent 71st-minute free-kick, after Kevin Lasagna had levelled for Udinese in the 31st minute following Duvan Zapata's early opener for away side.

Muriel then put Atalanta two goals ahead with a superb volley that ensured Lasagna's second three minutes from time made no difference to the result.

Roma are facing another season without Champions League football after losing 2-0 at AC Milan.

Ante Rebic and Hakan Calhanoglu scored late to give Milan victory at a stifling San Siro to put Stefano Pioli's side three points away from the last Europa League place held by Napoli, who beat bottom side SPAL 3-1 in Naples.

Gennaro Gattuso's side, who have already won the Italian Cup this season, came out on top at the Stadio San Paolo thanks to goals from Dries Mertens, Jose Callejon and Amin Younes.

Roma stay fifth but are only three points ahead of Napoli and nine behind Atalanta in fourth, who are now clear favourites to qualify for Europe's top club competition.

Dovizioso Breaks Collarbone Before MotoGP Return



MILAN (AFP) - Italian MotoGP star Andrea Dovizioso will undergo surgery on a broken collarbone later Sunday, his Ducati team confirmed, just weeks before the world championship season starts.

The 34-year-old landed badly competing in a motocross race at Faenza, near his home in the Emilia Romagna region in central Italy.

"After suffering a crash during a motocross race in Faenza, Andrea Dovizioso has sustained a left collarbone injury," the team said on Twitter.

The team did not specify the injury but the Italian media reported it was a broken collarbone. Ducati added that after consultation with doctors "Dovi has decided to proceed with surgery this evening in Modena to be fit in time for the start of the 2020 MotoGP season."

Dovizioso has raced for Ducati since 2013 and finished runner-up in each of the past three seasons behind Spaniard Marc Marquez. The 2020 MotoGP season will start following the coronavirus lockdown on July 19 in Spain at the Jerez circuit.

The season was originally scheduled to start on March 8 in Qatar.

Clever Benzema Assist Helps Real Madrid Go Clear at the Top



BARCELONA (Reuters) - Real Madrid's Karim Benzema produced an audacious back-heeled assist for Casemiro to score as they beat Espanyol 1-0 away on Sunday to capitalise on Barcelona's slip-up a day earlier and move two points clear at the top of La Liga.

Brazilian midfielder Casemiro slid to the ground to guide the ball home on the stroke of halftime after being played in by a stroke of genius from Benzema, who dragged the ball through the legs of his marker Bernardo Espinosa to find his team mate.

Casemiro ran straight to Frenchman Benzema to thank him for the pass and dedicated the goal to him. "The goal belongs to Karim. We're used to the quality he brings to his play and I had to celebrate it with him because it was all down to him," Casemiro said.

"We know how good he is and that's why I called for the ball as I knew he would lay the ball off to me." Coach Zinedine Zidane added: "I'm not surprised by what Karim did at all, he is a player who keeps inventing things on the pitch and his control and backheel was super. It might be the best piece of play of the season." Real's players embraced each other when the final whistle arrived to signal a fifth consecutive victory which took them top on 71 points after 32 games. Barca, who were held to a 2-2 draw at Celta Vigo on Saturday, are second on 69.

Hamilton Eyes Schumacher Record



LONDON (Dispatches)- Seven months after they last competed in earnest, the Formula One circus will push a post-lockdown reset button to open the 2020 season in Austria on Sunday.

The event at Spielberg is being held on its original calendar date, but is not the once-anticipated 11th round of the championship, but the first—a season-opener delayed by the global coronavirus pandemic.

More than three months after the Australian Grand Prix was abandoned on the eve of opening practice in Melbourne, the race in the Styrian Alps will be run behind closed doors, without fans, sponsors' agents and guests and only a handful of reporters restricted to the media centre.

The usual high-rise motor homes will be replaced by tents and awnings while the teams, cut to 80 members and all in protective gear, will operate in sanitised "bubbles within bubbles" in a paddock bereft of human contact and the usual swell of rumour and speculation.

For all involved, who are tested four days before the event and five days later, it will be an unprecedented and unique experience.

Yet, despite all the change and the surreal atmosphere it is expected that the action, when it begins, will deliver the same likely story.

Lewis Hamilton, powered by the all-conquering Mercedes, goes in search of a seventh drivers' title to equal the record of Michael Schumacher.