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# IRAN NEWS

Iranian Ambassador to Moscow Said Seven Months After Implementation Of a Trade Agreement Between Iran and Eurasian Economic Union, the Trade Volume Has Exceeded \$2,417,000,000

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## Gen. Soleimani's Assassination Violation of Int'l Law

TEHRAN (MNA) – The U.S. drone strike in Iraq that assassinated Lt. Gen. Soleimani and nine other people represented a violation of international law, said the UN human rights investigator on Monday.

The United States has failed to provide sufficient evidence of an ongoing or imminent attack against its interests to justify the strike on Gen. Soleimani's convoy as it left Baghdad airport, said Agnes Callamard, according to Reuters.

The attack violated the UN Charter, Callamard wrote in a report calling for accountability for targeted killings by armed drones and for greater regulation of the weapons.

"The world is at a critical time, and possible tipping point, when it comes to the use of drones. ... The Security Council is missing in action; the international community, willingly or not, stands largely silent," Callamard said.

"But absent an actual imminent threat to life, the course of action taken by the US was unlawful," Callamard wrote in the report.

Callamard is due on Thursday to present her findings to the Human Rights Council, giving member states a chance to debate what action to pursue. The United States is not a member of the forum, having quit two years ago.

## Tehran Urges UN To Help Find Diplomats Abducted in Lebanon

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iran has called on the United Nations to help set up a fact-finding committee to shed light on the fate of four Iranian diplomats kidnapped in Lebanon about 40 years ago.

On July 4, 1982, the year Israel invaded Lebanon, Iranian diplomats Ahmad Motevasselian, Seyyed Mohsen Mousavi, Taqi Rastegar Moqaddam and Kazem Akhavan were kidnapped by a group of Israel-backed gunmen at an inspection post in northern Lebanon.

In a letter to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres on Monday, Iran's envoy to the UN Majid Takht-Ravanchi said the Islamic Republic believes the four diplomats were handed over to Israeli forces immediately after the abduction in a region controlled by Tel Aviv at the time.

"Evidence shows that they have been held in Israeli prisons, and are still alive," the Iranian envoy added.

He wrote that the UN chief is expected to support Tehran's call for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to set up a fact-finding committee to investigate the fate of the missing Iranian nationals.

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## Iran Records Highest Daily Death Toll From COVID-19



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran has recorded its highest number of deaths from COVID-19 within a 24-hour period, Health Ministry figures showed on Tuesday.

The 200 deaths reported on Tuesday exceed the previous record from Sunday, when the ministry reported 163 deaths in a day.

The Islamic Republic has recorded a total of 11,931 deaths and 245,688 infections from the coronavirus, ministry spokeswoman Sima Sadat Lari said in a statement on state TV.

Speaking at a presser on Tuesday about the latest data on the Coronavirus, Sima Sadat Lari said, "According to the definitive laboratory findings and from yesterday to today July 07 in the country, 2,637 new patients with COVID-19 were diagnosed and the number of patients with the disease reached 245,688."

"1,455 of the new patients were hospitalized," Lari said.

"Fortunately, 207,000 patients have recovered and discharged so far," She said.

The Spokeswoman said: "Unfortunately, in the past 24 hours, 200 COVID-19 patients have lost their lives, bringing the total death toll to 11,931."

The official stated: "3,270 patients are in intensive care units."

"So far, around 1,846,793 COVID-19 diagnostic tests have been conducted in the country," the Health Ministry spokeswoman said.

According to the spokeswoman, the provinces of Khuzestan, Kurdistan, Kermanshah, Hormozgan, Bushehr, Khorasan Razavi, East, and West Azerbaijan and Ilam are in a critical situation (Red Status).

The others such as Tehran, Fars, Mazandaran, Hamedan, Zanjan, Sistan and Baluchestan and Alborz are on alert. Meanwhile yesterday Health Minister Saeed Namaki warned, "Coronavirus is one of the most dangerous and unknown viruses that have entered the human societies, and none of the world's top virologists have predicted its future."

Namaki said, "Due to the sanctions and many problems in the country's economic situation, in the first phase of the disease, we had a difficult period and huge problems, thus with the help of all the people, non-governmental organizations and the sacrifices of the medical staff, we were able to create a great achievement. Death tolls reached about 30 people a day, and we were moving toward single digits mortality."

"I have said many times that we are playing chess with an unknown virus and normalization of the situation and this delusion that the Coronavirus is over is one of the most dangerous ideas," Saeed Namaki told reporters, adding: "A new wave has engulfed us in very important and border provinces, West Azerbaijan, Ilam, Khuzestan, Bushehr, Sistan- Baluchistan were affected."

The Minister of Health said, "Today, we have reached a more favorable situation in provinces such as Kurdistan, Khuzestan, Bushehr, and Kermanshah, but it still does not mean that we have overcome the disease."

"Wearing a mask and keeping social distancing can make us more than 80 percent immune against Coronavirus. We have to take social distancing seriously and not travel,"

Namaki called on all people to continue to fully and carefully implement health protocols in order to prevent the re-outbreak of the disease.

Warning that elderly people are more vulnerable to the COVID-19, the Health Minister reiterated that it is wrong to think that going to a party and leaving grandparents at home will keep them away and safe from the virus because when their grandchildren return from the party, they transmit the virus.

## Iran's Nuclear Activities Unstoppable

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN – Government Spokesman Ali Rabiei reacted to the recent incident in Natanz nuclear facility, highlighting that nothing can stop Iran's nuclear program.

"This incident has not had any effect on the process of uranium enrichment and Natanz facilities are active as before; Iran's nuclear activities are peaceful and despite hostilities of enemies, it cannot be stopped," Rabiei said on Tuesday in his weekly presser.

On Thursday, Iran said an incident affected a shed under construction at the Natanz complex, but it caused no casualties and failed to stop enrichment work at the facility. The Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) said the main cause has been determined and will be announced at an appropriate time.

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## ViewPoint

By: Hamid Reza Naghashian



## Will the U.S. Defalcate China's Money?

In nearly past six months since the outbreak of the Coronavirus in China and ultimately its spread in most countries in the world, the U.S. has tried to make a big excuse against China and to lay a ground for an economic war. The U.S.'s challenging pretext in facing with the World Health Organization (WHO) has itself laid the ground for this excuse making.

According to the official statement of the spokesman of China's State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE) during an interview with Chinese news agency Xinhua, China's foreign exchange reserves, either in form of securities or cash, in the American banks rose to nearly \$3.115 trillion and during the Coronavirus pandemic the figure has increased by 0.02 percent.

The SAFE spokeswoman Wang Chunying in her interview has emphasized that in the current condition, China, due to its robust financial infrastructures, does not need its reserves in the U.S. banks and to some extent she signaled a peace message to Washington, and in her message she revealed the policy of waiting for the fate of the U.S.'s November election in order to show with whom China is to challenge in the White House.

It is interesting that despite decline in exports of China and trade war with the U.S., China's forex reserves has been seen uptrend in June and according to the SAFE spokesman, China's foreign exchange reserves rose 0.03 percent in June comparing to January and reached \$3.115 trillion.

The Chinese official also said although global political and economic uncertainties are rising, Chinese monetary authority remained optimistic about stable foreign exchange reserves in the future, supported by economic growth within a reasonable range.

Economic analysts believe the increase in China's forex reserves in the U.S. is because of change in the forex market relations, and they also believe the rise in China's forex reserves has happened due to different factors like par of exchange rate and changes in the price of the assets.

These kinds of analyses also point to the concerns in the wake of the virus pandemic and its impact on the China's financial market and East Asian region as well as global events like the BREXIT, and they believe the current economic condition in Europe and the U.S. have caused concern for the White House regarding radical forex decisions.

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## Gov't Adopts Measures to Improve Capital market, Currency Fluctuations

TEHRAN (IRNA) - President Hassan Rouhani said on Tuesday that the Government adopted measures to improve capital market and currency fluctuations.

Rouhani said supplying exporters' currency for the market can control fluctuations.

He vowed that the government will sue those who have refused to supply foreign exchange from exports on time and based on the regulations.

At the same time, government will grant concession to those who honored their commitments. Earlier on Sunday, Rouhani said that the enemies will not achieve their ominous plot to annihilate Iran's economy.

Enemies are trying to mount psychological warfare in vain to disrupt Iran's economy, he added.

He further expressed satisfaction with the current economic situation including production and exports despite the sanctions and coronavirus pandemic.

Since its outbreak in December 2019, coronavirus pandemic has created obstacles to world trade and exchanges. In many countries, social distancing rules and health protocols are being followed as preventive measures to deal with the deadly virus which has killed over 516,000 in different parts of the world. The president announced that the country will witness normal situation and also stability in economy in next months.



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## Iran Raps Assassination of Iraqi Expert Hisham al-Hashemi

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Iran’s Embassy in Baghdad condemned the assassination of leading Iraqi researcher, Hisham al-Hashimi.

In a statement on Monday evening, the Islamic Republic of Iran’s Embassy in Iraq condemned as a “criminal action” the assassination of al-Hashimi, who was fatally shot outside his house in Baghdad on Monday.

“We condemn the criminal action of assassination of expert of

Iraq’s security issues, Hisham al-Hashimi, and other elites of that country,” the Iranian Embassy said, Al Mayadeen reported.

The leading Iraqi expert on Daesh (ISIL or ISIS) and other armed groups was shot dead in Baghdad on Monday after receiving threats from militias, security and interior officials said.

Al-Hashemi, 47, was shot near his home in the Zeyounh area of Baghdad and pronounced dead at a hospital.

## VP Urges Boost to Iran’s Non-Oil Exports

*IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK*

**TEHRAN - First Vice President Es’haq Jahangiri has described a surge in the export of non-oil products as a top priority in the administration’s economic policy, calling on all governmental and private sectors to contribute to the promotion of non-oil exports.**

Boosting non-oil exports for supplying the required foreign currency, increasing domestic production, and creating employment is Iran’s top economic priority, Jahangiri said in a meeting of the Headquarters on Coordination of Foreign Economic Relations, held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Monday.

The vice president then called on all governmental, public and private organizations to try to remove the obstacles in the way of non-oil exports in the current Iranian year.

“To get through the difficult and serious conditions at present, we must focus on the removal of obstacles to production and settlement of the economic problems and livelihood of people,” he added.

Jahangiri further pointed to the clear connection between economic development and the foreign policy, noting, “In order to promote and attract investment and to shore up the production units that export their products to the other countries, we require an active economic diplomacy. In this juncture, we must strengthen connections primarily with the neighboring countries, with which we have political, security and economic bonds.”

The vice president further stated that 80 percent of the Iranian exports are destined for the neighboring states and a number of other major countries.

He also touched on a \$41 billion target that the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade has set for the exports in the current Iranian year, noting that achieving that target would prove that Iran has the necessary capacities to do great jobs.



Calling for efforts to increase the value of exports compared to the previous year, Jahangiri said, “In addition to the neighbors, our economic relations with China, India, and Russia are determining. We have significant and strategic relations with those countries.”

China is the world’s second largest economy, the vice president added, noting, “We must have the courage to defend the enhancement of our country’s strategic relations with Beijing, and the Foreign Ministry can work on this agreement in various fields, from energy to technology.”

“India is also a great country, and it is necessary to focus on economic interaction with it more carefully. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs must have special plans to promote economic ties with the target countries,” the vice president noted.

He further highlighted the role of transportation and transit industry in the generation of currency incomes for Iran, stressing the need to strengthen the infrastructures at the border provinces to help boost the transit of commodities and expand foreign exchanges.

All tools and capacities must be employed for Iran’s economic growth and promotion of exports, Jahangiri stated, describing the Iranian expatriates as a major asset that could participate in the economic affairs and help the country in the current circumstances.

## Saving JCPOA Is Possible

TEHRAN (IP) - Foreign Minister stated that it will be possible to save JCPOA if European parties fulfill their obligations.

Speaking at the Mediterranean Dialogue (MED 2020) held via video conferencing on Monday, Mohammad Javad Zarif said: “If the European parties start implementing what they have agreed to, it is possible to save JCPOA.”

“What we have done is not against JCPOA, but within the framework of this agreement,” he said.

Referring to the issues in Syria, Zarif said, “We should not have preconditions for peace in Syria.”

“We all need to put aside political considerations and turn to international aid for humanitarian purposes,” he added.

Zarif also pointed to the military budget of the U.S., saying that Iran’s defense budget is \$16 billion a year, while the United States sells a triple amount of that to Saudi Arabia each year.

## Iran, Belarus to Hold 15th Meeting of Joint Commission

TEHRAN (IFP) - An Iranian official has unveiled plans for holding the 15th meeting of Iran-Belarus Joint Commission in the near future.

Director-General of the Europe and Americas Office at the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran said representatives of the Iranian state-run and private sectors are going to attend a panel discussion on trade with Belarus.

The proposals made by the participants in the upcoming gathering will be included in the memorandum of understanding that would be issued at the conclusion of the 15th meeting of Iran-Belarus Joint Commission, Behrooz Hassan-Olfat said.

He also noted that various plans would be discussed with the Belarusian officials in a series of online meetings.

Highlighting the ample opportunities for the promotion of trade and industrial cooperation between the Iranian and Belarusian companies, Hassan-Olfat said business people from Iran’s private sector consider a preferential trade agreement with the Eurasian countries as a perfect opportunity for the expansion of economic relations.

The Iranian private sector’s representatives have listed the obstacles in the way of exports and have also put forward suggestions for discussion in the negotiations between high-ranking officials from the two countries, he noted.

## Russia, China to Oppose Extension of Iran Arms Embargo

TEHRAN (MNA) - A member of Expediency Council Hojjatoleslam Gholamreza Mesbahi Moghadam said that Moscow and Beijing will voice their opposition to the extension of Iran arms embargo at UN Security Council.

He noted that such an extension would be contrary to Resolution 2231 and that China and Russia would voice their opposition.

“Of course, U.S. along with three European countries intends to extend Iran’s arms embargo; the government should take effective steps and prevents US and Europe from realizing their objectives.”

Extension of Iran’s arms embargo requires approving a resolution in the UN Security Council, he continued, adding “To me, it is very unlikely that this will happen. This issue is against the previous resolution of the UN Security Council on Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and that both Russia and China are against violation of the previous resolution.”

The official went on to say that the extension of arms embargo will also be against the interests of countries such as Russia because Iran can buy arms from this country.

European countries involved in Iran’s nuclear talks failed to live up to their commitments under JCPOA and it seems that Europeans will not change their positions in this regard, he added.

## West Bank Annexation Aims at Palestine’s Destruction

TEHRAN (IP) - The Director-General of West Asian Department of Iran’s Foreign Ministry has said that the Zionist Regime’s plan of West bank annexation had been aimed at forcing the Palestinians to leave their houses as well as destroying their land.

Hamid Reza Dehqani Poudeh in a virtual meeting on the consequences of the annexation plan of the West Bank to the territories occupied by the Zionist Regime held on Monday called the unity among the Muslim nations as the solution to fight against the usurping Zionist Regime as well as the liberation of the Holy Quds.

Stating that the Palestinian issue belongs to the Muslim countries as

well as freedom-loving countries, Dehqani Poudeh urged that there is no successful path except that of resistance and the Islamic Republic of Iran has always backed the unity among the Palestinians as well as the liberation of Holy Quds on this path.

The representative of the Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) in Tehran, Khaled Qaddumi, also said at the meeting: “One of Israel’s goals is to destroy the Resistance Front and gain legitimacy, the activity which has no legal or international status.”

Qaddumi stressed that if the Zionist Regime pursues the plan to annex the West Bank to the occupied territories, another Intifada will take place.

## A Portion of Iran’s Frozen Money Returns as Pharmaceutical Items

TEHRAN (ILNA) - A portion of Iran’s frozen money in South Korea will return to the country in the form of pharmaceutical and medical products,” the chairman of Iran and South Korea’s joint chamber of commerce said.

Hossein Tanhaee said that there was no discussion on the return of the frozen money in cash and it is possible to gradually import Foodstuffs and animal feed after medication.

Answering to question about the volume of this agreement, Tanhaee added “I don’t know yet about the volume of this agreement, but it depends on our efforts, and I hope that with the coordination of the Ministry of Health and the Central Bank, we will be able to return a large portion of this money,” he said.

On June 12, the chairman of Iran and South Korea’s joint chamber of commerce told that Iran’s frozen assets in South Korea were between \$6.5 billion and \$9 billion.

Regarding the impact of sanctions on trade between the two countries, he said: “I do not have exact statistics at the moment, but the volume of bilateral trade between has sharply decreased.”

“South Korea’s ban on Iran’s use of its central bank resources to buy basic goods, medicine, and humanitarian items is in no way acceptable, and we expect the South Korean government to lift this restriction as soon as possible,” President Hassan Rouhani said.

## AEOI Rejects Rumors on Blast In Shahid Rezaei Nuclear Site

TEHRAN (MNA) – In a statement on Tuesday, the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) dismissed the rumors of an explosion in Shahid Rezaei nuclear site in the Iranian province of Yazd.

Following the baseless claims made by anti-Revolutionary media on a blast in Shahid Rezaei nuclear site in Ardakan, Yazd province, the AEOI said in a statement that no explosion has taken place in the complex.

The claims made by anti-Revolutionary elements and media out of Iran are along with policies of the terrorist and warmonger Zionist regime and those of the US maximum pressure campaign in a bid to kill hope of the Iranian nation, it added.

It is worth noting that the released satellite images by those media are not of the Shahid Rezaei nuclear site, the AEOI noted.

## Iraq Agrees to Limited Reopening Of Two Borders With Iran

TEHRAN (MNA) – Spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) said that the Soomar and Shalamcheh borders will be reopened to a limited extent.

Seyyed Rouhollah Latifi made the announcement on Tuesday, saying that Iraq’s Prime Minister Mostafa al-Kadhimi has agreed to a limited reopening of the Mandali border in Diyala province and the Shalamcheh border in Basra province.

He added that according to the Iraqi officials, the reopening of the two borders will be two days a week and 250 trucks of Iranian export cargo can pass via each border every day.

Iraqi officials have emphasized the strict implementation of health protocols and meeting the needs of the two Iraqi provinces, Latifi said.

Due to the outbreak of the coronavirus in Iraq, Shalamcheh border crossing and other borders in the central government as well as the borders of the Iraqi Kurdistan region had been closed.

Shalamcheh International Border is 15 km away from Khorramshahr and 20 km from Basra, Iraq, and is the most prominent border crossing point in Khuzestan province for trading transactions.

Soomar border is located in Kermanshah province and it was also closed for more than four months due to the coronavirus pandemic.

### Qalibaf Speaker Calls for Boosting Economic Ties With Qatar



TEHRAN (IRNA) – Majlis Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said in the presence of Qatari ambassador to Iran Mohammed bin Hamad Al Hajri that the U.S. interventionist behavior in the region is a serious threat to the security of the Persian Gulf and stressed the need to boost the level of economic, political and cultural cooperation between Iran and Qatar.

Qalibaf considered the level of political cooperation between Iran and Qatar appropriate, and said, “Undoubtedly, the weapon of Saudi sanctions against Qatar is the wrong decision; this unilateralist behavior has been used by the United States against some nations.”

Referring to the need to increase economic cooperation between Iran and Qatar, he added that the two countries are expected to pay more attention to joint economic opportunities and cooperation.

During the meeting, Al-Hajri congratulated Qalibaf on his election as the Speaker of the Iranian Parliament (Majlis) and emphasized the importance of continuing parliamentary relations between the two countries.

He called the relations between the two countries important in all fields.

## Iran, Tunisia Stress Expansion of Bilateral Ties

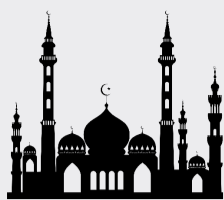
TEHRAN (IP) - Iranian Ambassador to Tunisia Mohammad Reza Raouf Sheibani met with Tunisian Minister of Commerce, Mohamed Msilini on Monday to discuss the ways for further expansion and strengthening of bilateral ties.

The two sides highlighted the importance of advancing trade relations between Iran and Tunisia as well as the opening of new horizons for bilateral cooperation.

During the meeting, the Tunisian Minister of Commerce stressed the need to improve the level of trade between the two countries and to try to increase reciprocal meetings, noting that COVID-19 has affected the joint commission of the two countries.

The Iranian Ambassador for his part called for expanding bilateral cooperation and meetings of economic activists of the two countries.

Sheibani also suggested that a series of long-distance union meetings at the level of chambers of commerce be held with the participation of a number of businessmen from the two countries under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce.



## PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	13:09
■ Evening (Maghreb)	20:43
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:12
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	05:56

27. They speak not before He speaks, and they act (in all things) by His Command.  
28. He knows what is before them, and what is behind them, and they offer no intercession except for those who are acceptable, and they stand in awe and reverence of His (Glory).  
Surah 21. The Prophets ( 27 - 28 )

# Iran, Australia Enjoy Unbreakable Diplomatic Ties

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

**TEHRAN - Australian ambassador to Tehran has said that Iran and Australia have unbreakable 50 years of diplomatic relations and Australia has settled 60,000 Iranian-Australian citizens which strengthens the ties.**

In a meeting with Iran's Red Crescent Society's chief Karim Hemmati at Tehran on Monday, Lyndall Sachs stated: "I suppose cooperation at the international level can boost two sides' relations."

Expressing her condolences on those Iranians who lost their lives with Coronavirus, Sachs said that Australia is eager to expand its ties with Iran.

Referring to the world's challenge with the Coronavirus, Australian ambassador to Tehran stated: "As long as the disease spreads globally, all counties' efforts are required to contain the virus."

"Though Iran-Australia geographically is not close, nothing can stop helping each other," said the ambassador.

Sachs said that Iran and Australia have long-lasting relations, in particular, with Iran's Red Crescent Society.



"Australia was one of the first countries which have tried to send humanitarian aid to Iran by Coronavirus outbreak," she reiterated.

"Australia has allocated financial aid to Asia and Oceanic regions," Lyndall Sachs pointed, adding: "Both Iran and Australia are culturally rich in helping others."

Australia is financially rich and is not in need but respects and gratitude Iranians sympathy and help-offering while bush-fires there.

Fortunately, Australia was lucky in comparison to other countries in the world with 160 victims and 9,000 infections during the outbreak.

Meanwhile Sachs on the level of Iran- Australia ties stated that Australia was one of the first countries that gave money to Iranian Red Crescent Society through the International Federation of Red Crescent Societies.

The diplomat added what Australia did is a demonstration of Australia's commitment and this is an international problem that requires international efforts in order to work to find a solution.

## EORC Installs System for Reporting Repairs Process



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

ISFAHAN – Experts of Repairs and Maintenance at Esfahan Oil Refining Company (EORC) installed the system for facilitating the report from the precise and transparent process of repairs of equipment in the company.

Senior engineer at the rotating machine repairs and maintenance unit said that currently due to necessity of launching the computerized system for maintenance and repairs management in the refinery, some parts of the performance of the company like institutionalizing orders for repairs and completing them, or other work orders and taking pre-emptive measures for rotating machines have been set on the agenda of the unit. Before this system is installed, the unit used Microsoft Excell software for its daily reporting but this performance caused problem for reporting and even it was time consuming.

The operator of the project Saeed Ghorbani said this problem made the unit think of resolving it and ultimately with coordination with the senior engineer of the pre-emptive repairs and maintenance unit Mr. Hamid Karimi, the CMMS system was installed for transparency and full reporting of the repair process.

Ghorbani said easy access to the repairs process and transparency of the related performances at any time needed is one of the advantages of the new system.

## Science-Based Companies Create Over 300,000 Direct Jobs a Year

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Vice-President for Scientific and Technological Affairs Sorena Sattari said on Tuesday that Iranian science-based companies created more than 300,000 direct jobs over the past Iranian year (ended on March 19).

Speaking to reporters, Sattari said that science-based companies have sold some 1,200 trillion rials of their products over the mentioned period. Shares of Iranian science-based companies available at stock market are worth more than 1,500 trillion rials, the vice-president said.

He said that the growth in the number and value of the science-based companies is estimated at 40 to 50 percent in the current Iranian year. Sattari also announced that 13 percent of the articles in the world on coronavirus is written by Iranian scientists. He added that in the last Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20, 2020), the number of the Iranian scientific articles registered a growth of eight percent.

Sattari made the remarks during his visit to Qazvin province. On June 30, Sattari announced that two human vaccines for treating the novel coronavirus are ready to be unveiled and three other ones will be ready by the end of the current year (March 2021).

Iranian knowledge-based firms have started manufacturing coronavirus test kits and they have received approval from

eight countries to export their products.

Iran presently has a production capacity of manufacturing 1 million serology test kits per day and monthly production of 1.5 million of C-Creative Protein (CPR) test kits. Of the said amount, a part is domestically used and the rest is exported.

## KSC Ready to Provide Oxygen For Ahwaz Hospitals

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Following the dissemination of news regarding the shortage of oxygen in hospitals in the city of Ahwaz, Khuzestan Steel Company announced its readiness for providing the hospitals with their needed oxygen.

The CEO of company Mr. Ali Mohammadi said that the company in line with observing its social responsibilities, combatting with Coronavirus and needs of ICU wards in hospitals to oxygen for their patients, is ready to provide the hospitals with needed amount of oxygen.

He added that he had talks with the head of Jondi Shapoor Medical Sciences of Ahwaz Dr. Farhad Abol Nejadian and it was decided the company to take charge of providing oxygen for hospitals in Ahwaz.

It is noteworthy to say that since the outbreak of the virus, Khuzestan Steel Company has set up a special committee to combat with the virus and it also launched a production line for producing masks and hygienic clothing (scrubs) and it has so far donated over 180b rials to the crisis committee of Khuzestan Province for combatting the virus.

## ESCO Wins Social Responsibility Award



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

ISFAHAN – Esfahan Steel Company (ESCO) was awarded with Social Responsibility Award due to its expanded activities in the social responsibilities field especially its actions in fight with the Coronavirus pandemic.

The company won the award after the jury of the "4th National Event on Reviewing Issues and Challenges of the Public Relations" found ESCO deserving to win the award due to its performance regarding the fight with Coronavirus.

During the award presenting ceremony which was held at Iran Industrial Management Institute, some prominent cultural and health figures like Professor Saeed Reza Ameli and Dr. Kianoush Jahanpoor were present.

It is noteworthy to say that after the outbreak of the virus in the country and issue of how to fight it, ESCO held a crisis committee chaired by the CEO of the company and it began its effective and extended measures with an appropriate planning on February 22.

## CEO's Message on 29th Establishment Anniversary of EDBI

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – The CEO of Export Development Bank of Iran Dr. Ali Akbar Salehabadi in a message felicitated his colleagues, customers and exporters on the 29<sup>th</sup> establishment anniversary of the bank.

In his message Dr. Salehabadi said on the eve of the 29<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bank and in a year which has been named Surge in Production, the bank is determined to stand beside endeavors of economic front for passing from the imposed cruel sanctions on the national exports.

He added that by increasing its efforts for serving the exporters of Iranian goods and services by using various tools for financing exports either in both domestic or international dimensions and also drawing up comprehensive programs in support of production and exports under the cover of economic and banking systems of the country, the bank takes effective and strong stride than before.

Salehabadi added that one of the ways for materialization of surge in production is exports and the role of EDBI has been very colorful in materializing this goal, adding that the forex repatriated from the exports are major providers of raw materials for the factories in the country. He reiterated that the bank is ready for offering more favorable services to its customers and urged his colleagues in the branches of the bank to double their efforts for serving the clients and exporters.



SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT

PERMIT NO : 1399.1729



## CALL FOR PUBLIC TENDER

(FIRST/SECOND PUBLISHER ONE STAGES TENDER)

Subject of Tender:

Tender No.	Description
01-27-9747005	Parts For Caterpillar Equipment
01-27-9747008	Parts For Caterpillar Equipment

Tender descriptions:

The Tender holder	Registration No. through national electronic tendering system	Tender No. /Indent No.	Estimated value (Rial)
National Iranian Drilling Company	8,229,825	Tender No. :FP/09-98/033-5 Indent No.:01-27-9747005	11,198,049,580
	8,230,353	Tender No. :FP/09-98/006-5 Indent No.:01-27-9747008	44,509,908,000

Qualitative evaluation of tenderers

Method	Qualification process will be done in plain mode in offers opening session according to presentation of valid practice certificate / legal documents (certificate of corporation/ supply announcement up to latest changes) which should be related to tender subject.
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Purchasing & Submitting

Tender Document Distribution by Company	The distribution of the documents will be started one day after the publishing of second advertisement and ended on the following tenth day thereof	
	Distribution Place	Hall No.:113, 1st floor, Foreign Procurement Dept., National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN – Tel : 061 34148601
Documents Receiving Method	Submitting Method	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt in the amount of 190,000 Iranian Rials under account number 4001114004020491( Shaba No. IR 520100004001114004020491) in name of "NIDC Incomes Centralized Fund" issued by I.R. of Iran Central Bank.</li> <li>Submitting format Request for the purpose of receiving Tender Documents.</li> </ul>
	Closing date	35 Days after the last time of Purchasing.
Tender Guarantee	Address	Hall No. 107, 1st floor, Tender Committee. Operation building, National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN. Tel: +98-61-34148580 +98-61-34148569
	Value of guarantee	560,000,000 Rial / 4,414 Euro Regarding Tender No FP/09-98/033-5 2,226,000,000 Rial / 17,545 Euro Regarding Tender No FP/09-98/006-5
Type of guarantee	Bank guarantees or guarantees issued by non-bank institutions that obtain activity license from the central bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt under account number 4001114006376636 ( Shaba No. IR 350100004001114006376636) in name of "NIDC saving account" by the central bank of Islamic Republic of Iran.	
Duration of credit & quotation	Tender Guarantee and quotation should be valid for 90 days and extendable maximum for one time in initial validity duration.	

(Foreign Procurement Dept.)

More of this & other tenders are accessible by click on: [www.nidc.ir](http://www.nidc.ir) [http://sapp.ir/nidc\\_pr](http://sapp.ir/nidc_pr)

## Trudeau Spurns Trump Summit With Mexican President

MEXICO CITY (Reuters) - Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau will not attend talks in Washington this week to mark the start of a new North American trade deal, but Mexico's president said the two will talk by telephone later on Monday morning.

Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador is due to meet U.S. President Donald Trump at the White House on Wednesday, on his first trip outside of Mexico since taking office. Lopez Obrador had publicly urged Trudeau to join him in Washington.

The Canadian leader will be attending cabinet meetings and a sitting of parliament in Ottawa, his office said in a statement.



## North Korea Has No Intention To Sit Down With U.S

SEOUL (Reuters) - North Korea said on Tuesday it has no intention to sit down with the United States and urged South Korea to "stop meddling in other's affairs," a senior diplomat said.

Kwon Jong Gun, director general for U.S. affairs at Pyongyang's foreign ministry, issued a statement in state media KCNA criticising South Korea for "talking in their own favour" about "untimely rumour" about another summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and U.S. President Donald Trump.



## Russians, Saudis Top UK Independent Sanctions List



LONDON (AFP) - Britain on Monday identified 49 "notorious" individuals and organisations, 25 of them Russian and 20 Saudis, to be sanctioned under its first post-Brexit targeting of accused human rights violators, prompting immediate anger from Moscow.

The Russians are listed for their alleged involvement in the death of lawyer Sergei Magnitsky and the Saudis for suspected roles in the death of the journalist Jamal Khashoggi, the Foreign Office said.

One notable name on the list is Saud al-Qahtani, who it is believed oversaw the team that killed Khashoggi in the Saudi consulate in Turkey in 2018. Individuals from North Korea were also included on the list and all those named will have their UK assets frozen and travel bans imposed.

It is the first time Britain has gone it alone and used sanctions to penalise individuals and organisations accused of human rights abuse. Previously, it has followed European Union and United Nations sanctions regimes. The new measures were announced by Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab in a statement to the House of Commons. He said the government would now have the "power to impose sanctions on those involved in the very worst human rights abuses right around the world."

"These sanctions are a forensic tool, they allow us to target perpetrators without punishing the wider people of a country that may be affected."

He added: "Today this Government and this House sends a very clear message on behalf of the British people that those with blood on their hands, the thugs of despots, the henchmen of dictators will not be free to waltz into this country to buy up property on the King's Road, to do their Christmas shopping in Knightsbridge or frankly to siphon dirty money through British banks or other financial institutions."

Those targeted would be those not just committing human rights abuses but anyone who profited from them, Raab said. Lisa Nandy, the main opposition Labour party's foreign affairs spokeswoman, said the sanctions could not come too soon. Britain had been a "haven" to those who use corruption, torture and murder, she said.

The decision drew a furious reaction from Russia, marking another low-point between the two countries. "The Russian side reserves the right to take retaliatory measures in connection with Britain's hostile decision," the Russian embassy in London said in a statement without elaborating.

The mission said Moscow was particularly outraged by the sanctioning of top directors of Russia's Investigative Committee and General Prosecutor's Office as well as judges. Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo backed the move as an example of British post-Brexit diplomacy. "This sanctions regime marks the beginning of a new era for UK sanctions policy and cooperation between our two democracies," he said in a statement.

## Turkey to Respond If EU Takes Fresh Measures Against It



ANKARA (Reuters) - Turkey will respond with its own steps if the European Union imposes further sanctions on Ankara, Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said on Monday after meeting the EU's top diplomat.

France's foreign minister said last week EU ministers would discuss Turkey on July 13 and said new sanctions on Ankara could be considered in addition to steps taken over Turkey's drilling in the Cyprus economic zone.

"If the EU takes additional decisions against Turkey, we will have to respond to this," Cavusoglu told a news conference with EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell in Turkey's capital. As relations deteriorated between the bloc and Ankara, the European Union imposed a travel ban and asset freezes on two people in February for their role in Turkey's drilling in Cyprus' maritime economic zone off the divided island.

Cavusoglu berated the EU for failing to fulfill promises and linking issues such as the Cyprus dispute and a 2016 migrant deal. He said Turkey will not allow itself to be held hostage by Greece and Cyprus and called on the EU to be an "honest broker".

Earlier this year, tens of thousands of migrants tried to cross into Greece via land and sea borders after Ankara said it would no longer stop them. The flow has slowed since then, but Cavusoglu said Turkey "will continue to implement its decision".

Cavusoglu also repeated a call for France to apologize after an incident between Turkish and French warships in the Mediterranean, which prompted Paris to request a NATO investigation.

Relations between the NATO members have soured over the Libya conflict, where Turkey supports the internationally recognised government and accuses Paris of backing the eastern-based forces of Khalifa Haftar who tried to capture Tripoli.

France denies backing Haftar's offensive on the capital, and accused Turkish warships of aggressive behavior.

## China Slams U.S. as It Joins Global Arms Trade Treaty at U.N

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters) - China on Monday joined a global arms trade treaty spurned by the United States, taking a swipe at U.S. President Donald Trump's administration by accusing it of bullying, unilateralism and undermining efforts to combat global challenges.

China's U.N. ambassador, Zhang Jun, said he had deposited China's instrument of accession to the treaty, which regulates a \$70 billion global cross-border trade in conventional arms and seeks to keep weapons out of the hands of human rights abusers. China, which announced its plans in September, becomes the 107th party to the pact, approved by the U.N. General Assembly in 2013. Then-U.S. President Barack Obama signed it, but it was opposed by the National Rifle Association and never ratified by the U.S. Senate.

Trump said in April last year that he intended to revoke the status of the United States as a signatory. In July 2019, the United States told U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres that Washington did not intend to become a party to the treaty and that it had no legal obligations from its 2013 signature.

Without naming the United States, but amid escalating tensions between Beijing and Washington, Zhang said in a statement that a "certain country ... walked away from international commitments, and launched acts of unilateralism and bullying."

"This has brought huge uncertainties to the global strategic balance and stability, and seriously undermined the joint efforts of all countries to tackle global challenges," he said, adding that "major powers need to ... set an example by contributing to safeguarding the international order, the rule of law, the role of the U.N. and multilateralism." The U.S. mission to the United Nations did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Zhang's remarks.

China was the fifth-largest global arms exporter between 2014 and 2018, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, although China itself does not publish figures for how many arms it exports.

## Afghan President Pushing for Global Consensus on Talks With Taliban

KABUL (AFP) - Afghan President Ashraf Ghani is expected to start pushing Monday for a global consensus on peace talks with the Taliban, even as his spokesman slammed the militants for a spike in violence.

Ghani is hosting three online conferences with representatives of some 20 countries this week, with the first meeting scheduled for later Monday.

They aim to "build a consensus" for the peace talks at regional and international level, said Gran Hewad, a spokesman for the foreign ministry. The United States and Russia along with some international organisations such as the United Nations will take part, officials said.

Other countries participating include Pakistan, India, Iran, China, Egypt and Qatar, they added.

But just hours ahead of the first online meeting, Ghani's spokesman slammed the Taliban for an uptick in violence in recent weeks. "There is no obstacle on our side for the peace process, but we see that the Taliban are not serious," Sediq Sediqqi told reporters.

"The government of Afghanistan released a large number of Taliban in order to reduce violence in the country, but the violence has not decreased." Afghan authorities have released more than 4,000 Taliban prisoners out of 5,000 demanded by the insurgents in a deal with Washington signed in February.

That deal paves the way for withdrawing of all foreign forces from Afghanistan by the middle of next year.

Violence dropped in the run-up to the Taliban-Washington deal -- and again, briefly, after militants announced a three-day ceasefire on May 24. But there has been a spike in violence across much of the country in the past few weeks, with officials blaming the Taliban for killing and wounding hundreds of security personnel and civilians.

The Taliban have denied responsibility for many of the attacks, but acknowledge their fighters were targeting Afghan security forces in rural areas.

## Trump Weighs Executive Orders on China

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. President Donald Trump is considering several executive orders targeting China, manufacturing and immigration, his chief of staff Mark Meadows told reporters at the White House on Monday, though he offered few details.

"It's dealing with a number of executive orders that may go all the way from dealing with some of the immigration issues that we have before us, to some of the manufacturing and jobs issues that are before us, and ultimately dealing with China, in what we need to do there in terms of resetting that balance," Meadows said.

Since taking office in 2017, Trump has tried to rescind a program that shields from deportation hundreds of thousands of immigrants living in the United States



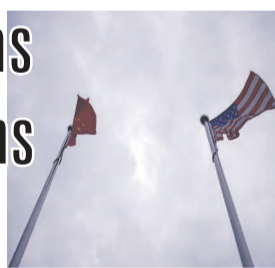
illegally after entering as children - a group often called "Dreamers."

The U.S. Supreme Court last month blocked Trump's effort to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy put in place by former President Barack Obama, which protects roughly 649,000 immigrants from deportation.

Earlier on Fox News, Meadows said, "We're going to look at a number of issues as it relates to prescription drug prices, and we're going to get them done when Congress couldn't get them done."

It was not clear what any executive order on China or manufacturing would entail.

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**Shanon**  
(adviser)

**Zaferanieh Apt (\$2500)**  
250sq.m, 3bdrs  
S/p, Sauna  
J, balcony  
marble fl  
fireplace  
Fully Furn

**Niavaran Villa (\$5000)**  
1000sq.m  
5bdrs, S/p  
S, J, & pkg  
green garden  
Nicely Furn

**Parsian**

**(\$2700)**  
**Fereshteh**  
240sq.m, 3bdrs  
S/pool, Sauna, J  
marble fl, & F.F

**Farmanieh Apt (\$2000)**  
180sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p, S, J  
L.balcony, pkg, & F.F

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

**Jordan Apt (\$1800)**  
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# Saudi Arabia Raises August Crude Oil Prices to Asia

SINGAPORE (Reuters) - Saudi Aramco has raised the August price for its flagship Arab Light grade for Asian customers by \$1 (£0.8006) a barrel from July to a premium of \$1.20 a barrel to the Oman/Dubai average, two sources told Reuters on Monday citing pricing documents.

The tables below show the full FOB prices for August in U.S. dollars. Saudi term crude supplies to Asia are priced as a differential to the Oman/Dubai average.



## China Regains 1.1% GDP Growth In Q2 on Production Rebound

HONG KONG (Dispatches) - China's economy likely expanded 1.1% in the April-June period on a recovery in production and consumption, rebounding from a 6.8% contraction for the previous quarter during the peak of coronavirus cases in the country, according to the consensus of economists surveyed by Nikkei and Nikkei Quick News.

Estimates for the second quarter of 2020 ranged from negative 5.2% to positive 3.6%, with 22 of 26 economists who answered this question projecting growth.

Qun Liao, chief economist at China CITIC Bank International, forecast a 1.9% increase in real gross domestic product, saying that rising supply caught up with demand while leeway on monetary and fiscal policies propped up growth.

Tommy Wu, lead economist at Oxford Economics, forecast 1.5% growth.

"We expect the economy to continue to recover from the second quarter onwards, mainly led by industrial production and investment," Wu said.

China has contained an explosion in COVID-19 infections through strict lockdowns, resuming economic activities ahead of the U.S. and European countries.

"Industrial production, fixed asset investment and services-sector output have all resumed growth by May," said Aidan Yao, senior emerging Asia economist at AXA Investment Managers.

A rise in materials prices and a recovery in sales of construction machinery testify to a pickup in domestic demand, said Cheng Shi, chief economist at Industrial and Commercial Bank of China International, adding that growth firms up "in every quarter."

But the recovery is far from a V-shaped rebound. The average forecast of full-year growth for 2020 came to 1.6%, down from 3.3% in the previous survey in March.

"We cut our 2020 China growth forecast from 3.0% to 2.0%," said Arjen van Dijkhuizen, senior economist at ABN AMRO Bank, noting that "external headwinds have risen."

Sophie Altermatt, economist at Julius Baer, took the global economic slowdown into consideration.

"We believe that China will face increased headwinds in the export sector in the coming months," Altermatt said.

Economists remain worried about a possible "second wave" of coronavirus cases in China. Widespread infections may return, hindering economic recovery, said Fan Xiaochen, director of Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group's Economic Research Office (Hong Kong).

China's GDP could contract as much as 1.2% in 2020, said Jian Chang, chief China economist at Barclays Asia Pacific. She cited "a potential further escalation in Sino-U.S. trade or financial tensions as a major downside risk for growth."

Asked when they expected Chinese economic activity to return to normal, 32% of respondents predicted the July-September quarter while 41% forecast the October-December period. Only 14% said it had already normalized during April-June.

"About 90% of the workforce is already back to work," said Sean Taylor, Asia-Pacific chief investment officer at DWS. "Car demand has also returned back to pre-crisis level. Even hard-hit sectors such as domestic flights and hotel occupancy rates are only 20% below pre-crisis level."

But Moody's Analytics economist Xu Xiaochun offered a reserved forecast for 2021 due to the heavy losses this year.

China "most likely will need to wait for vaccine to be available before the speed can return to a sustainable pre-COVID growth path," Xu said.

## BOJ to Maintain Recovery View Despite Pandemic Gloom

TOKYO (Reuters) - The Bank of Japan is expected to roughly maintain its view the economy will gradually recover later this year from the virus-led downturn, sources familiar with its thinking told Reuters, even as fears of a second wave of infections cloud the outlook.

The central bank's views, from its quarterly report due next week, will heighten the chances it will keep monetary policy steady at a review on July 14-15, after having ramped up stimulus in March and April.

But the BOJ's report is expected to warn that risks to the outlook are extremely high, including a second wave of infections that could delay any recovery in global and Japanese growth, four sources told Reuters.

"Japan's economy probably hit bottom," said one of the sources. "The BOJ probably won't need to alter its baseline view that the economy will start to improve later this year," the source said, a view echoed by the three other sources. Japan slipped into recession in the first quarter and is expected to suffer an annualised contraction of more than 20% in April-June, as output and consumption tanked after the government urged businesses to close and citizens to stay home.

Businesses have gradually re-opened and shoppers have returned to the streets since a state of emergency was lifted in late May. The government's huge stimulus package and central bank lending schemes have also helped cushion the economic blow, paving the way for a modest recovery, the sources said. As a result of such positive signs, the BOJ is likely to stick to its forecast, made three months ago, that Japan's economy will improve later this year, they said.

If pessimists in the board prevail, the BOJ may signal that the projected timing of the recovery could be delayed or prove weaker than initially expected due to the prolonged drag from COVID-19, the sources said.

In its April report, the BOJ said the economy would remain in a "severe" state for some time but improve in the latter half of 2020 on condition that the pandemic's impact will gradually dissipate.

Many in the BOJ concede their recovery forecast rests on the shaky assumption the world can avoid a resurgence in coronavirus infections.

A rise in infections in Tokyo, as well as in key export markets such as the United States, could delay Japan's recovery - a risk the BOJ may highlight in the report, the sources said.

## Indonesia Unveils \$40b Bond Scheme to Fund Recovery From Pandemic

JAKARTA (Dispatches) - Indonesia's central bank has agreed to buy 574.59 trillion rupiah (\$40 billion) of government bonds this year and rebate most of the yield to help fund the economic recovery, Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati said on Monday.

The bond-buying program will help finance the 2020 fiscal deficit, which is forecast to reach 6.34% of GDP this year, as the government steps up spending to fight the virus outbreak while revenue drops.

Some 397.56 trillion rupiah of bonds will finance public interest programs and the cost will be fully borne by the central bank, Indrawati said. The rest will carry interest rates below the central bank's 3-month reverse repurchase rate and will support recovery schemes for some businesses, she said.

"This policy is aimed at invoking confidence in our economic recovery, healthcare response and to create more certainty," Indrawati said.

The bond scheme for public interest programs is a one-off policy, the debt will have long maturities and be tradeable, which will allow Bank Indonesia (BI) to utilize them for its monetary operation, she added.

BI Governor Perry Warjiyo said the scheme will have a small impact this year on inflation, which hit a 20-year low in June due to weak demand, while BI will continue to assess the impact on future inflation and rupiah exchange rate.

Warjiyo added that the scheme will not have any implication to monetary policy.

"Our capital is strong and it will not affect how BI conducts our monetary policy according to the framework that we have established for years," he said.

BI has intensified its "quantitative easing" operations in recent months to help cushion the economic slowdown and cut its main policy rate three times this year to support GDP, on top of four cuts in 2019.

Warjiyo at BI's last policy review had flagged the potential for more cuts.

The government expects Indonesia's GDP to come in between a 0.1% contraction and a 1% expansion this year, compared with 5% growth in 2019.

The deal implied some bond supply risk as BI is unlikely to unload the bonds in the market in 2021 or 2020, an analyst said.

"In our view, a pre-condition for unwinding would be if portfolio inflows are large enough relative to both the balance of payments and the fiscal year's financing needs, such that any potential yield volatility could be managed," Citi said in a note.

## Russian Economy Faces Deep Recession Amid Global Pandemic, Oil Crisis

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Fueled by a Covid-19 triggered deep global recession, Russia's 2020 GDP growth is projected to contract by 6 per cent, an eleven-year low, with a moderate recovery in 2021-2022, according to the World Bank's latest Russia Economic Report released on Monday.

The decline of Russian economic growth is further exacerbated by plummeting crude oil prices that dropped 53 per cent between January and May. In 2020, overall household consumption is expected to shrink by 4.9 per cent and gross fixed capital investment by 8 per cent.

Through April and May, negative growth was reflected in most sectors with manufacturing contracting by 8.6 per cent in this period; mineral-resource extraction decreasing by 8.4 per cent, resulting in rapid shrinking of industrial production; and the transport sector experiencing a 7.7 per cent contraction, driven by falling trade volumes since the beginning of the year.

"There are immediate impacts of the pandemic-driven recession such as steep rise in unemployment, drop in real wages, reduced fiscal revenues and a weakened banking sector," said Apurva Sanghi, lead author of the study and Lead Economist for the World Bank in Russia.

"The encouraging news is that the prudent macro-fiscal policies and accumulated buffers have allowed the authorities to implement effective stabilisation measures," he said. The report notes that measures announced by government could partly contain the crisis-induced increase in poverty -- if implemented adequately. However, it cautions that short-term impacts could be followed by deeper longer-term consequences marked by non-recoverable losses like learning at critical ages, worsening of chronic health conditions, permanent job and skill losses, and small-business bankruptcies.

The study also finds that smaller cities and rural areas may suffer the spread of the virus several weeks or months later.

Sectors not initially affected like agriculture could be impacted in later stages if disruptions in migrant labour availability, internal logistics, international trade or financial conditions make resuming full production difficult.

This year, the report takes a closer look at how the Covid-19 pandemic is affecting learning and education across Russia. School closures could result in learning loss of more than one-third of a Russian school year and the impact could mean a decline in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) points.

"These losses are higher than those estimated for OECD and EU countries. Moreover, there are equity issues: while students from the top quintile could lose about 14 PISA points, those in the bottom quintile could lose 18 points. These 18 points translate into a loss equivalent to missing one-half of the year's learning," said Renaud Seligmann, World Bank Country Director for Russia.

## S. Korea, Uzbekistan Eye Deeper Economic Ties



SEOUL (Yonhap) - South Korea and Uzbekistan on Monday vowed to speed up preparations for a possible free trade agreement (FTA), which will pave the way for deeper economic ties and exchanges.

Industry Minister Sung Yun-mo met Sardor Umurzakov, Uzbekistan's deputy prime minister for investment and foreign economic relations, in Seoul to discuss ways to overcome the economic fallout from the new coronavirus pandemic, according to the Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Energy.

South Korea and Uzbekistan have already completed a feasibility study on the joint FTA.

"South Korea is currently preparing to come up with a new model of FTA that will promote sustainable cooperation in the fields of trade and investment," Sung said during the meeting.

"(The FTA) will contribute to the economic development of Uzbekistan while helping South Korean firms penetrate deeper into the country," he added.

The two countries also agreed to make efforts to expand economic ties in various areas.

In line with the meeting, SK Engineering & Construction Co. inked a front end engineering design (FEED) agreement with Uzbekistan's state-run oil and gas company, Uzbekneftegaz, to modernize an oil refinery.

South Korea has been making efforts to clinch FTAs with more partners as relations of the world's two largest economies have soured recently over trade and the COVID-19 pandemic. China and the U.S. accounted for nearly 40 percent of South Korea's combined exports in 2019.

The country's exports fell 10.9 percent in June marking the fourth consecutive month of decline amid the fallout from the new coronavirus pandemic, although the pace slowed as major economies around the globe slowly began to resume business activities.

## Euro Zone Investor Morale Up in July But Recovery Could Stall

BERLIN (Reuters) - Investor morale in the euro zone improved for a third month running in July but a dip in expectations suggests the recovery from the impact of the coronavirus pandemic could soon peter out, a survey showed on Monday.

Sentix's index for the euro zone rose to -18.2 from -24.8 in June. That compared with the Reuters consensus forecast for a reading of -10.9.



The current situation index rose for a second month in a row, to -49.5 from -61.5 in June. However, the expectations index for the bloc dipped to 19.5 from 21.8.

"There is a danger that the 'upswing' could run out of steam as early as the summer," said Sentix managing director Manfred Huebner.

Investors said they expected that only around 60% of coronavirus-related economic losses would be recovered within a year in the euro zone.

In Germany, investors expect only around 65% to be made up within a year despite the government's economic stimulus package, with the expectations index also dipping slightly in Europe's largest economy.

Sentix surveyed 1,109 investors between July 2 and July 4.

## Iran Daily Gas Output Exceeds 2m cm

TEHRAN (ILNA)- Iranian gas output registered a 2.2% growth in the first quarter of the current Iranian year (started on March 20) so that the country's gas output exceeded 2m cubic meters a day, according to a senior official with National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC).

Masoud Zardouyan, the NIGC director of coordination and

supervision on production, said that the company aims to boost gas production and overhaul of the country's refineries at the same time.

He said that the overhaul of the refineries is being carried out in a way not to disturb feeding industries and petrochemical units at all.

NIGC has plans to overhaul all the 18 active refineries of the country within the first seven months of the year, he said.



## German Recovery From COVID-19 Will Be Slow and Painful

BERLIN (Reuters) - German industrial orders rebounded moderately in May and a fifth of firms in Europe's biggest economy said in a survey published on Monday they feared insolvency, adding to expectations of a slow and painful recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.

Germany has withstood the pandemic better than other big European countries, recording fewer COVID-19 deaths, and its economy has been relatively resilient during more than six weeks of lockdown owing to generous stimulus packages and a decision to keep open factories and construction sites.

But data showing that industrial orders had risen by a record 10.4% during a month when restrictions were gradually lifted, almost a third less than forecast in a Reuters poll, dashed hopes of a quick return to pre-crisis business activity.

"The orders data signal that the manufacturing sector recession has overcome its low point," the Economy Ministry said. "But the low level of orders also shows that the recovery process is far from over."

Order intake was 30.8% lower than in February, before lockdown measures were imposed a month later to slow the spread of the coronavirus, and almost 30% weaker than in May 2019.

Fears of a slow recovery were compounded by an Ifo economic institute survey showing that 21% of firms fear the pandemic could force them to shut down, adding to expectations that mass insolvencies in the coming months will hamstring the economy.

The services sector is most affected, Ifo said. Some 85% of travel agents and tour operators said they were threatened with insolvency, followed by 76% of hotels and 67% of restaurants.

The government wants to revive the economy by boosting consumption through lower rates of value-added tax for the second half of the year and a one-off stipend for parents.

It has also rolled out short-time work, a form of state aid designed to encourage companies to keep employees on the payroll during a downturn, which has helped stabilise the labour market.

The picture is no better for Germany's export-oriented manufacturers, which had faced declining demand before the pandemic resulting from trade disputes between the United States and China, uncertainties linked to Britain's departure from the European Union and an automotive sector grappling with an expensive shift to electric vehicles.



The government expects the economy to shrink by 6.3% this year, which would be its deepest recession since World War Two.

Monday's data showed that order intake from the euro zone had surged by more than 20% compared with a 2% increase from countries outside the single currency bloc.

The United States and China are Germany's first and third biggest export markets, and a pronounced revival of the manufacturing sector in Europe's largest economy also depends on global trade disrupted by the pandemic returning to normal.

"Today's industrial orders data brings two important messages: the lifting of the lockdown measures has brought V-shaped surges in activity but the return to pre-crisis levels will not be easy," said ING economist Carsten Brzeski.

## COVID-19 Imperils AIDS Progress



PARIS (AFP) - COVID-19 could cause an additional half a million AIDS deaths if treatment is disrupted long term, the United Nations said Monday in a warning that the pandemic was jeopardising years of progress against HIV.

At the start of a week of virtual International AIDS Conferences, the UN said the world was already way off course in its plan to end the public health threat even before COVID-19. Although AIDS-related deaths have fallen by 60 percent since the peak of the HIV epidemic in 2004, in 2019 around 690,000 still died from the illness.

Around 1.7 million people were infected last year, and there are now close to 40 million people living with HIV worldwide.

The UN's annual report said that the 2020 target of reducing AIDS-related deaths to fewer than 500,000, and new HIV infections to under 500,000 will now be missed.

Millions of people had died in recent decades despite the existence of effective treatments, it said, calling on the world to learn lessons from the AIDS epidemic in its COVID-19 response.

"Like the HIV epidemic before it, the COVID-19 pandemic is exposing our world's fragilities -- including persistent economic and social inequalities and woefully inadequate investments in public health," said UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres.

Key populations at high-risk of HIV/AIDS are being put in further danger as lockdowns and distribution of medicines leaves them "even more vulnerable than usual", the report said. Research released Monday showed the pandemic was already impacting access to preventative medicine (PrEP) among at communities at risk.

At one Boston medical centre, a survey of more than 3,500 patients on the PrEP programme showed that lapses in picking up repeat medication had risen 278 percent in the first four months of 2020. Year on year, the overall number of patients receiving PrEP had fallen 18 percent, the research showed. WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the findings were "deeply concerning".

"We cannot let the COVID-19 pandemic undo the hard-won gains in the global response to this disease," he said.

Observers are watching the pandemic's progress in India closely, as that country manufactures 80 percent of the world's generic anti-retroviral medicine -- any disruption in the supply chain will endanger HIV-positive communities.

One model run in conjunction with the World Health Organization showed that if COVID-19 measures disrupted HIV treatment programmes for six months it could leave an additional 500,000 people dead.

## India Becomes Third Hardest-Hit Country for Virus Cases

NEW DELHI (AFP) - India's densely populated cities ordered new restrictions as the confirmed number of coronavirus cases neared 700,000, passing Russia with the third-highest number of infections.

More than 697,400 cases have now been recorded, a rise of 24,000 in 24 hours, the health ministry said, while Russia has just over 681,000.

The surge has forced some cities to tighten their anti-virus measures -- including the eastern metropolis of Kolkata, which halted flights from other major Indian cities on Monday. It has set up dozens of containment zones in recent days.

A new lockdown was imposed on the capital of southern Kerala state, Thiruvananthapuram, with public transport shut and only pharmacies allowed to open.

The clampdown came after hundreds of new cases were reported across the state, which had been praised for its action to curtail the pandemic. It passed a law on Sunday making face masks and social distancing compulsory for the next 12 months.

While the United States and Brazil have the highest number of cases worldwide, India's tally is expected to keep rising for several more weeks. Experts predict there will be one million cases by the end of July.

The first patients were admitted to a sprawling temporary hospital in Delhi on Sunday, and doctors and



nurses are being drafted in to help with an expected deluge of cases.

The medical team can cope "even if it reaches its peak capacity," said Vivek Kumar Pandey, a spokesman for the military force running the 10,000-bed complex.

India has registered nearly 20,000 deaths from the virus, a

much lower number than many other badly hit countries.

Its major cities have been worst hit by the pandemic -- New Delhi and Mumbai each have about 100,000 cases, with 3,000 dead in the capital and nearly 5,000 in Mumbai.

Though international flights remain suspended, the government has sought to ease a nationwide lockdown in a bid to counter the hit taken by the economy since it started in March.

A number of national monuments opened Monday, including the Red Fort and Humayun's Tomb in Delhi.

But the four century old Taj Mahal, one of the world's biggest tourist attractions, remained closed because of infections in the region.

Companies that have reopened in recent weeks are facing pressure to take action over rising cases among workers.

Unions have demanded that the Bajaj motorbike company halt production at a giant plant in Maharashtra state, after more than 250 workers there tested positive for the coronavirus.

## Indian Economy Growth to Contract 4.5% in 2020

NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - A mass exodus of workers that followed India's harsh lockdown is forcing businesses to review their labor policies as they try to lure the people back with incentives as the economy reopens.

While some companies are promising benefits such as free travel tickets, housing and food to draw workers to urban areas, others are managing by hiring new faces from nearby locations. Some are trying a mix of both.

"We have offered food and other incentives to woo them back to sites," said V V Benugopal, country manager with Linfox Logistics India Ltd, a unit of Australia's Linfox Group. The company is also skilling a new workforce to mitigate potential delays in return of the migrant labor and arranging buses for workers' transportation, he said.

India tried to stop the migration of labor in the initial weeks of its stringent stay-at-home restrictions. However, the daily wage laborers started heading back to their rural homes after running out of food and cash in cities.

Disturbing scenes of workers and their families walking for miles, reminiscent of days after India's partition of 1947, forced Prime Minister Narendra Modi to facilitate their return. Later, the nation's administration allowed businesses to reopen after growth forecasts suggested the economy was heading for its worst performance in decades.

The result is a shortage of labor. It's adding to challenges for companies and pushing up their labor costs as they try to match incentives that are being provided by the government back in their rural homes.

"The shortage of labor has affected the construction projects which will slightly delay the completion," said Rajan Bandelkar, president of the National Real Estate Development Council's Maharashtra unit.

### Will the U.S. Defalcate...

FROM PAGE 1

Perhaps Ms. Wang's remarks in the interview may have been also some kind of assurance to the White House for alleviating the concerns and reducing tensions. Political experts in the U.S. believe that U.S. President Donald Trump is seeking a political war and even a military clash with China in order to pave the ground for defalcating China's forex reserves under such a climate and condition. In the past six months, there have been several excuse makings which have intensified the tension between Beijing and Washington. Issues like the U.S. interference in the effective policies in Taiwan, criticizing the security law in Hong Kong and above all, accusing China of its intentional passiveness in dealing with the Coronavirus and ultimately spreading the virus to the U.S. were of major excuses made by the U.S.

It is interesting that simultaneously with threatening China, Trump accuses Russia, which is one of the world super powers, of violating the open sky treaty. Creating simultaneous hostility with China and Russia can be considered as the doctrine of Cold War and freezing the reserves of the both countries in the current economic turbulence in the U.S.

The U.S. has shown this experience to the world when it is at odd with any country on any pretext, it freezes its forex accounts in its banks. The best proof for this claim is freezing Iran's accounts and assets in American banks after the victory of the Islamic Revolution and overthrow of Mohammad Reza Shah, the U.S. lackey in Iran.



### Iran's Nuclear...

FROM PAGE 1

Meanwhile, some Western media have claimed that the Israeli regime has been behind the incident. Citing a "Middle Eastern intelligence officer", the New York Times claimed that the Israeli regime had planted a powerful bomb at the Natanz complex in central Iran last week.

"Early after the incident, some media tried to create a powerful image for the Israeli regime and attributed the incident to it while officials of the usurping regime have refused to accept responsibility," the government spokesman added. He went on to describe such propaganda as 'psychological war'.

"The Israeli regime should be aware that creating of norm-breaking narrative on any attack against our nuclear facilities, even if it only propaganda, is considered as stepping in the path of violating redlines of global peace and security," he added, calling on the international community to stand against the regime in Tel Aviv.

The spokesman also said that the cause of the incident will be announced by the Supreme National Security Council after the final conclusion is made.

The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran has announced that a new and more advanced shed would be built at Natanz nuclear facility to replace the one damaged in the incident.

Rabiei also said that any action violating JCPOA, will face consequences and no one but enemies of multilateralism and diplomacy will take advantage of it.

Responding to Iran Press question on Europe's conformity with the U.S. in extending Iran's arms embargo, Rabiei stated that Europe's policy vis-a-vis the U.S. is failed so the EU must change it.

Europeans are jeopardizing the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action's (JCPOA) security by their contradictory manner, and they say something but act differently, he noted. The official went on to say that Europeans who could play their role as the decisive world power must not undermine their credit with their policies toward the United States.

E3's stance on Iran's Arm embargo is worrying, Rabiei highlighted.

Europeans must determine whether they are committed to the UN Security Council Resolution 2231, there is no other way around, Rabiei noted.

### Tehran Urges UN...

FROM PAGE 1

Takht-Ravanchi referred to the abduction of diplomats as a move against the international law, especially rules of human rights, and highlighted the UN's role in dealing with the issue and holding the Israeli regime accountable for kidnapping the four nationals.

The Iranian envoy wrote the letter to Guterres on the occasion of the 37th anniversary of the abduction.

Earlier on Friday, Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs once again hailed cooperation and measures taken by the Lebanese government to determine the fate of the four diplomats and said the UN, the ICRC and other international bodies as well as Lebanese officials should fulfil their legal and humanitarian duty and make their utmost efforts to shed light on the Islamic Republic places "legal and political responsibility of the abduction and this act of terror" on the Tel Aviv regime and its supporters given the occupation of Lebanon at that time by the Israeli regime, which was carried out with the full support of the United States, the statement added.

"Despite the elapse of many years of this criminal and terrorist act, the international community and so-called advocates of human rights have unfortunately carried out no serious action vis-à-vis this crime," the ministry said.

## British Sprinter Accuses Police of Racial Profiling

LONDON (AFP) - British sprinter Bianca Williams said on Monday she was considering legal action against the police after accusing officers of racially profiling her and her partner in a stop-and-search operation in London.

The European and Commonwealth 100m relay gold medallist also rejected the force's account their car had been driving on the wrong side of the road on Saturday. "They (the officers) said there's a lot of youth violence and stabbings in the area and that the car looked very suspicious," she told BBC radio.

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## England Confirm Pakistan Test dates

LONDON (AFP) - England cricket chiefs on Monday confirmed dates and venues for Pakistan's three-Test tour, with the series starting at Old Trafford on August 5.

International cricket returns on Wednesday following the coronavirus lockdown when England play the first match of their three-Test series against the West Indies at the Ageas Bowl in Southampton, followed by two matches at Old Trafford, in Manchester.

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SPORTS

WEDNESDAY JULY 8, 2020

# Tsitsipas, Moutet Engage in War of Words At Event in France

LONDON (Dispatches) - Players are allowed to show more emotions at the Ultimate Tennis Showdown (UTS) than normally allowed on Tour and Frenchman Corentin Moutet did not hold back in an angry verbal exchange during his match against Stefanos Tsitsipas on Sunday.

Matches at the UTS, co-owned by Patrick Mouratoglou, the long-time coach of Serena Williams, consist of four 10-minute quarters, with a two-minute break between them, and the player with most points win the quarter.

Moutet, ranked 75th in the world, saw a 2-0 lead in the match slip and lost his cool in the fourth quarter, accusing his opponent's father and coach, Apostolos, for being disrespectful by talking when he was getting ready to serve.

The players got into a heated on-court discussion as Apostolos watched on before the umpire intervened and asked the players to resume play.

"I won't speak about Stefanos, because he's a good guy. But it's just (his) father is stupid, everyone thinks he's stupid," Moutet told commentators during the break. "He's speaking when I'm serving, all the time. It's not respectful."

The argument did not seem to have bothered Tsitsipas too much as he squared the match at 2-2 and then won it in sudden death.

"I had experience with this in the past. I don't want to say more, but I don't see why there should be a problem," said men's world number six Tsitsipas.

"My father is trying to encourage me before the serve and he's not really interrupting. My opponent makes a big deal out of it."

Tsitsipas, Richard Gasquet, Matteo Berrettini, and David Goffin have booked their spots in the semi-finals of the tournament, which is being held without fans at Mouratoglou's academy in Nice, France.

World number three Dominic Thiem was the highest-ranked player at the tournament



before the Austrian headed off to play in the exhibition event he is organizing in Kitzbuhel.

Meanwhile French Open organisers are taking every precaution to ensure the Grand Slam does not meet the same fate as Novak Djokovic's Adria Tour, which was abandoned after several players tested positive for COVID-19, tournament director Guy Forget has told Reuters.

Djokovic has come under fire after the charity event was played in front of packed crowds in Serbia and Croatia and saw players hugging at the net and posing for pictures together.

Djokovic, Grigor Dimitrov, Borna Coric and Viktor Troicki have all tested positive for the new coronavirus.

The French Open will allow up to 60% of the usual capacity inside the Roland Garros grounds when the rescheduled claycourt tournament starts on Sept. 27 and Forget said there was no chance of them repeating the mistakes of the Adria Tour.

"Maybe some people were overconfident there," Forget said by telephone.

"Luckily no one got hurt really bad but even a few cases is too much and we want to avoid that as much as we can.

"We want to reassure everyone that having people getting ill will be terrible for us. Let's be really careful, really cautious."

France began easing restrictions in May but has been reporting over 500 cases daily in recent days. Protective masks will be mandatory for anyone on the move inside Roland Garros and they will be recommended for those sitting courtside.

The French Tennis Federation (FFT) expect some 20,000 spectators a day during the early stages of the two-week tournament and about 10,000 per day on the final weekend. Forget said a successful event needed to have some kind of a crowd.

## Liverpool Could Dominate Over Coming Seasons

LONDON (Reuters) - Juergen Klopp has built a Liverpool team of incredible quality and their relentless drive to succeed will help the Reds stay at the top of English football in the coming seasons, Brighton & Hove Albion boss Graham Potter said on Monday.

Klopp, who took charge of Liverpool in 2015, has overseen a period of sustained dominance, delivering the Champions League last season and the Anfield club's first top-flight title in three decades this year.

Brighton, 15th in the standings with 36 points, nine clear of the relegation zone, will host the new Premier League champions on Wednesday and Potter said he was preparing his side for a stern test.

"Liverpool are thoroughly deserved champions and it's great for us to test ourselves against them," he told reporters in a virtual news conference.

"Juergen's built a fantastic team. There's a spirit and togetherness there. A relentless push for winning football matches.

"There are some powerful clubs at the top of English football. Everything about Liverpool is a high level. They'll certainly be up there challenging for everything."

The Seagulls have picked up seven points from four games since the season's restart and Potter has been encouraged by their performances.

"I think we've done some things well and there's some things you can improve. You want to try and build on the good things," the Brighton boss said.

"The attitude and quality of training has been at the highest level since we've been here. I had a feeling they were in a good place, but until you get the results you can never say."

Potter confirmed that Colombian winger Jose Izquierdo could miss the rest of the season as he continues to recover from a knee injury that sidelined him in April last year.



# Burglary Victim Ribery Raises Doubts Over Italy Future

ROME (AFP) - Franck Ribery on Monday raised questions over his future in Serie A after a burglary at the home of Fiorentina's French star.

Ribery posted a clip on Twitter of the scene he was met with when he returned to his house in the foothills around Florence after his club's win at Parma on Sunday.

"I went back home, this 'home' in Italy where I decided to continue my career after so many great years at (Bayern) Munich, and this is what I found," wrote the 37-year-old.

Reporting his wife had lost jewellery and handbags he said the main damage was

"the shock, the feeling of being naked, of having your trousers taken down, and that's not on. I won't accept it!"

After his trophy-laden spell with Bundesliga champions Ribery joined Fiorentina last year. But he cast doubt on how much longer he was going to stay after this incident.

"Thank god my wife and kids were safe in Munich but how can you be sure these days? How can I/we feel good here after today?"

"I'm not chasing millions...but instead always chasing the ball because it's my passion.

"But passion or not my family is more important than anything, and we will take the necessary decisions based on our well-being."

## Hamilton Says He Didn't Push for Other Drivers to Take Knee

SPIELBERG (AFP) - Lewis Hamilton explained he did not push for his fellow drivers to take a knee prior to Sunday's Austrian Grand Prix and said he was "grateful" to the 13 who joined him.

The six-time world champion, who finished off the podium in fourth after suffering two penalties on a tumultuous day, said he had avoided requesting the move as he clarified his role in drivers' talks before the race.

"I never requested, or demanded, that anybody take the knee. I never even brought it up," he said.

"Seb (Vettel) and Romain (Grosjean) both raised it and asked the drivers whether or not they would do it and there were several who said they wouldn't.

"I let everyone say what they wanted and then I just opened up to them and I said 'Look, guys, just so you know — I will be doing it, but you do what you feel is right'."

Hamilton thanked his fellow competitors for their gesture pre-race.

"And I'm really, really grateful to those who did kneel along with me. I think it's still a really powerful message, but ultimately whether or not you kneel, or do not kneel, that's not going to change the world. "And it's a much, much bigger issue across the world. I think everyone has a right to their own personal choice and, for me, personally, it was what I felt was right to do, but I didn't make the decision until last night (Saturday)."



## Federer Missing Wimbledon But Aiming To Be Back Next Year

PARIS (AFP) - Roger Federer on Monday said he is "missing" Wimbledon after the grass-court Grand Slam was cancelled, but hopes to play the tournament in 2021.

The 38-year-old, who has undergone two knee surgeries this year, had already announced he will not play again until next year.

This week was scheduled to be the second week of Wimbledon, where Federer has won a record eight men's singles titles, but the tournament was cancelled for the first time since World War II due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"Personally, it has been very pleasant to stay in the same place for a long time, I hadn't experienced that for more than 25 years," Federer said at the launch of the "Roger Center Court" running shoes created by Swiss brand On.

"But of course I miss Wimbledon, of course I would like to be there currently playing on Centre Court for a place in the second week.

"Clearly, one of my big goals, and that's why I do recovery work every day and work so hard, and why I'm preparing for a 20-week physical preparation block this year, is because I hope to play at Wimbledon next year."

Federer said the coronavirus lockdown gave him the chance to recuperate following

