

**Issa Jafari, the Representative of The Iranian Cities of Bahar and Kabudarahang in the Parliament, Has Died of the Novel coronavirus At the Age of 59**

# IRAN NEWS

**Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization Said the Country's Foreign Trade Is Expected to Improve in the Second Quarter of The Current Iranian Calendar Year (June 21-September 21)**

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2

## DOMESTIC

**Gov't Supports and Encourages Credible Producers, Exporters**



> SEE PAGE 2

2

## DOMESTIC

**Raeisi Urges Follow-Up on Trump's Arrest Warrant**



> SEE PAGE 2

4

## INTERNATIONAL

**Two Killed in Azerbaijan-Armenia Border Clashes**



> SEE PAGE 4

8

## SPORTS

**Dominant Hamilton Cruises to 85th Win In Mercedes One-Two**



> SEE PAGE 8

## Tehran Waiting for Results of EU High Representative Consultations

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Abbas Araqchi said Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif's letter has been received by European Union foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, and we are waiting for the result of his consultations with other parties.

Elaborating on Zarif's letter to the EU top diplomat on activating dispute resolution mechanism, Araqchi said the letter has been received and Mr. Borrell is consulting with other members on how the meeting related to the letter should be held.

He added that holding the meeting has a deadline.

If a JCPOA party does not comply with its commitments or violates them, the other party can file a complaint to the joint commission based on dispute resolution mechanism, he noted.

We believe what E3 did was in contrast with their commitments under the nuclear deal, he said adding that we informed the joint commission and decisions will be made in this regard. "We have activated the mechanism to inform the joint commission on Iran's opinions with regard to the fact that the E3 committed a breach of JCPOA commitments," Araqchi said. **See Page 7**

## Iran's COVID-19 Fatalities Hit 13,000

### IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Health Ministry spokeswoman says 203 patients have died of the novel coronavirus in the past 24 hours, increasing the overall death toll to 13,032.

In her press briefing on Monday, Sima-Sadat Lari confirmed 2,349 new cases of COVID-19 infection, raising the total number of infections to 259,652.

The spokeswoman said 222,539 patients have so far recovered from COVID-19, but 3,375 are still in severe conditions of the disease.

She further stressed that so far 1,997,967 COVID-19 tests have been taken across the country.

According to Lari, Khuzestan, West Azarbaijan, Khorasan Razavi, and Mazandaran provinces are considered as "red zones".

Tehran, Fars, Kerman, Alborz, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad, Golestan, Bushehr, Hormozgan, and East Azarbaijan provinces are also in dangerous conditions, she added.

## Tehran-Beijing Relations, Strategic and Comprehensive



### IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Foreign Ministry Spokesman Seyed Abbas Mousavi said on Monday that Iran and China have always had common historical ties as well as good relations in various political and economic dimensions in East Asia.

Responding to Iran Press' question at his weekly press conference, Mousavi highlighted, "During a trip by the Chinese President to Iran in 2015, the two sides agreed to take a strategic view as well as a road map into consideration. Afterward, Iran and China drafted an agreement several times. Iranian Foreign Minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif delivered the suggestions by the Iranian side to the Chinese during a trip he had to the country. Consequently, the draft agreement was finalized by Iran, and should be delivered to the Chinese side to be finalized."

The spokesman stressed, "The strategic agreement between Iran and China is unbelievable and at the same time unacceptable for different parties. They believe that the Islamic Republic of Iran, through this act, is making the cruel sanctions imposed against the Asian country ineffective which they are right in this case."

Mousavi went on to say, "Iran is ready to define its long-term relations with other countries that have long-standing ties with it. The same procedures have been taken for some countries. Foreign roots have been the causes of the attacks. The Iranian nation is vigilant, and will not be the victim of a smear campaign that has been conducted by the rivals."

Iran is considered as an important country in West Asia and China is considered as an important one in East Asia and relations between two countries has always been peaceful, the spokesman said.

He further said that Tehran does not accept the Europeans' middle-course stance between the US and Iran.

"The Europeans' stance is "not constructive", Abbas Mousavi said, adding that Iran clearly announces that Europeans have some commitments they should be loyal to, but they are defeated by the US pressures that is by no means good for their international reputation.

Answering a question about why the details of the draft agreement between China and Iran are not revealed, Mousavi said the accord is still being negotiated. It is a roadmap that should be carefully-wrought. And those trying to sabotage it know "our sensitivity". He said that when finalized, the document will be published and that the hype is for distancing Beijing and Tehran from each other.

Regarding the fire in a U.S. warship in San Diego, he said the issue does not concern to Iran, but it is interesting how soon the US warships catch fire. "May be the American cheetah are responsible for."

Calling on Azerbaijan and Armenia to exercise self-restraint and resolve their dispute over Karabakh through political ways, Mousavi expressed sorrow over the incident in which Azeri forces were killed.

Iran has repeatedly expressed readiness for helping the two neighboring countries to solve the issue peacefully, he said. He said that the current Iranian year was named surge in production, which means when the Iranian markets are glutted, the country will need new markets for exports.

Iran has been talking with the neighboring countries about customs tariffs and use of national currencies for trade, he said. Regarding the issue of fire that happened in Natanz nuclear facility, Mousavi said that the incident has no effects on Iran's nuclear activities and that the job in Natanz is being done and the place is being reconstructed.

With regards to the 7-billion-dollar debt of South Korea to Iran, he said that the talks are in progress at the level of foreign ministries and central banks of the countries, adding that Iran has already told the Koreans that their pretext not to pay the debt of the Iranian people is by no means acceptable. Mousavi said that Iran is not under UN sanctions; a rebel and bully country has sanctioned Iran, and South Korea as independent country has no duty to follow the sanctions. Hoping that South Korea will pay its debts, he said the pretext of Seoul is accepted in no court.

## U.S. Not After Talks, Seeking to Impose Demands on Iran

TEHRAN (Tasnim) - Russian Ambassador to Iran Levon Jagarian slammed the U.S. government for the policy of imposing its demands on other countries with the threat of sanctions, saying Washington is not pursuing genuine talks with Tehran.

In an interview on the fifth anniversary of achievement of the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, the Russian ambassador said the US is not after negotiations with Iran, but wants to impose its own conditions.

"They (Americans) only pursue their own agenda. They don't even want to hold talks and only say 'either accept our conditions or face sanctions.' Unfortunately, they do not understand any other word," Jagarian added.

He also said that the U.S.' stance on the JCPOA is not going to change, no matter which candidate will win the upcoming U.S. presidential election. "I'm not quite optimistic about whoever there is (at the White House)." The ambassador also voiced Russia's opposition to the U.S. bid to extend a UN arms embargo on Iran which is going to expire in October, adding, "We will definitely oppose it, and the U.S. has no right to comment about this subject."



**See Page 7**

## Iran's Rupee Reserves In India Declining

### IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Vice chairman of Iran-India Chamber of Commerce Parham Rezaei says most of Iran's trade with India is in Indian national currency rupee because the country had sold its oil in rupee but due to the slump in purchase of oil, Iran's rupee reserves in India are decreasing and currently purchase of foodstuff and medicines is the country's priority.

Speaking to ILNA, Rezaei talked about the latest developments on Iran-India trade, saying that in recent months no restriction has been imposed on trade with Iran by Indian government but due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the amount of imports and exports have plummeted and it has strongly affected the trade balance of both countries.

He added that currently Iran exchanges trades with India based on its oil revenues which are in rupees and it is natural that by decline in India's purchase of Iran oil, Iran's rupee reserves in India are declining and currently Iran's priority is to purchase foodstuff and medicines from India. **See Page 7**

## Iran to Adopt Smart Response Toward Natanz Incident

TEHRAN (MNA) - In reaction to the Natanz incident, the Spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran said that the strategic and inviolable policy of the Establishment is giving a smart and ingenious response.

Referring to the reactions of some international media and the positions of European countries to the recent incident, Behrouz Kamalvandi said, "While the Western-Zionist media has attributed the Natanz incident to sabotage or attack, there is no sign of condemnation of the attack in their explanation."

"Such stances by the Western media and officials are double standards and unacceptable," he added.

He stressed, "There is no doubt that Iran will take its actions according to the interests of the country," adding, "The strategic and inviolable policy of the Islamic Establishment in various cases and positions is a smart and wise response based on the three principles of honor, wisdom and expediency."

Kamalvandi on July 2 revealed the occurrence of an incident in one of the under-construction sheds in Natanz Nuclear facility. This incident had not any casualties and also has not incurred any damage to the current activities of the facility.

Referring to the incident that took place in Natanz enrichment facility, Iranian Foreign Ministry's Spokesman Seyed Abbas Mousavi on Monday said in case a regime or a government is involved in the Natanz incident, Iran will react decisively.

## Ansarullah Hits Saudi Oil Facility in Missile Attack

TEHRAN (IFP) - Yemen's Houthi Ansarullah says its forces have hit a large oil facility in the southern Saudi Arabian city of Jizan in drone and missile attacks overnight.

"With many drones our armed forces targeted military aircraft, pilot accommodation and Patriot systems in Khamis Mushait, and other military targets at Abha, Jizan and Najran airports," said Yahya Saree, a Houthi military spokesman.

"Additionally, the giant oil facility in the Jizan industrial zone. The strike was accurate."

Khamis Mushait, Abha, Jizan and Najran are all in southwest Saudi Arabia near the Yemen border.

The Saudi-led coalition fighting the Yemeni resistance group said earlier it had intercepted and destroyed four missiles and six explosive drones fired by the Houthis over the border towards Saudi Arabia. **See Page 7**



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# Iran, Kuwait FM's Call for Bolstering Bilateral Ties

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and his Kuwaiti counterpart Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah on Monday urged boosting mutual relations.

Speaking during a video conference with his Kuwaiti counterpart, Zarif added that bilateral and multilateral cooperation plays a key role in the region.

During the meeting, both sides examined the issues of mutual concern as well as the latest regional and international issues.

## Gov't Supports and Encourages Credible Producers, Exporters

**TEHRAN (IP) - President Rouhani supporting private sector, said that law-abiding producers, business and exporters would receive special support and financial incentives.**

President noting to the important role of the private sector in national economy and said his government supports and encourages the creditable exporters.

Addressing a session of the administration's Economic Coordination Headquarters, Rouhani highlighted the leading role of the private sector's producers and merchants in the country's economy amid the struggle with the foreign sanctions.

"The administration's policy is strengthening and supporting the companies that are at the forefront of the battle with the sanctions and are trying to supply the necessary commodities required by the society and the raw materials," he said.

The Iranian government also supports the companies which make efforts to meet society's fundamental needs and are in the front line of the fight against the sanctions, the president said.

In the meanwhile, he added, a small group of exporters that do not repatriate the foreign currency from the exports to the country's economy will be prosecuted and their activities will be restricted.



President Rouhani stated that Central Bank of Iran (CBI) with the cooperation of the Ministry of Industry, Mine, and Trade follow policies on controlling the forex market at the highest level of transparency.

Assuring the private sector companies, business people and producers of the government's backing, the president said considering the reports by the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade about constructive cooperation from the business people, companies and merchants abiding by the law will be given special incentives.

## People Would Live Together In Complete Health Soon

TEHRAN (IP) - Health Minister Saeed Namaki in a letter to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei on Sunday said that people would live together in complete health in no time.

"I am sure that we will control it (coronavirus) and undoubtedly we will come back to those days which our dear people live together happily and in complete health," Namaki noted in his letter to Ayatollah Khamenei.

The minister called his Eminence's wise orders as the source of national consensus and convergence and stressed the efforts of various parts of the system and the country to contain coronavirus.

In the letter, Namaki wrote, "The first part of your wise orders today, which, as before, was a source of national consensus and convergence."

The minister also expressed hope that with the help of people and officials coronavirus will be defeated soon.

## Raeisi Urges Follow-Up On Trump's Arrest Warrant



TEHRAN (MNA) - Judiciary Chief underlined that Iran will not stop following up the arrest warrant it has issued for Trump and other criminals for the assassination of Iran's former IRGC Quds Force Commander Lt. Gen. Qassem Soleimani.

Seyed Ebrahim Raeisi said that Tehran's prosecutor and the deputy of the Judiciary for international affairs should follow up on the assassination of martyr Soleimani and the discussed issues by the UN special rapporteur on their agenda.

On July 9, the UN special rapporteur investigating summary executions said that the United States' targeted assassinating of the IRGC Lt. Gen. Qassim Soleimani was unlawful and risked eroding international laws that govern the conduct of hostilities.

Agnes Callamard said that the American drone strike that martyred General Soleimani as he arrived in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, in January could only be justified in international law as a response to an imminent threat. The United States had provided no evidence to support that position, she said.

"Absent an actual imminent threat to life, the course of action taken by the US was unlawful," Callamard wrote in a report that she presented on Thursday to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva.

## IRGC Commander Underlines Israel Failures in All Arenas

TEHRAN (Tasnim) - A senior Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) commander shrugged off the Israeli psychological war against Iran, saying his main aspiration is to wipe out the "fake and usurping" Zionist regime that has failed in all arenas over the past decades.

In an article published on Sunday, Brigadier General Gholam Hossein Gheibparvar, the deputy commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in Imam Ali (AS) Central Security Headquarters dismissed the Israeli regime's psychological war against Iran in the cyberspace.

The regime that chanted "From Nile to Euphrates" has ended in failure in all arenas over the past 40 years, the top commander said.

"Our cause is the elimination of the fake and usurping regime which has committed the most heinous crimes against humanity," General Gheibparvar added.

He further advised the Zionist regime's officials to think about completing and protecting the tall concrete wall they have constructed around themselves before the "children of Islam" suffocate Israel to death and wipe it out.

In a tweet in May ahead of the International Quds Day, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei said, "Eliminating the Zionist regime doesn't mean eliminating Jews. We aren't against Jews. It means abolishing the imposed regime & Muslim, Christian & Jewish Palestinians choose their own govt & expel thugs like Netanyahu. This is 'Eliminating Israel' & it will happen."

## Spanish Diplomat Bids Farewell to Zarif

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Spanish Envoy to Iran Eduardo López Busquets bid farewell to Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif at the end of his mission to the Islamic Republic.

López Busquets met with Foreign Minister Zarif on Sunday afternoon.

Earlier, speaking to IRNA, Eduardo López Busquets said that the key achievement of the Iranian foreign policy over the past 4 years has been the negotiation and signature of



the nuclear deal, aka the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), with six major world powers.

"From the regional and multilateral perspectives, Madrid and Tehran share common concerns, especially in the fight against terrorism. Iran is a major actor in a strategic

region for Spain," he added.

He also expressed readiness to share experiences with Iran in the field of tourism.

## Zarif Dismisses Rumors on Selling Kish Island to China

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran-China relations are strategic, and based on common interests, as well as mutual respect, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif was quoted by Rapporteur of National Security and Foreign Policy Commission of Iran's parliament Abolfazl Amouie as saying on Sunday.

Zarif made the remarks in a session of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission on Sunday while briefing the Iranian lawmakers on the landscape for a 25-year Iran-China cooperation plan.

Amouie cited Zarif as dismissing some rumors, including giving away Iran's Persian Gulf Island of Kish for rent to China and bestowing exclusive rights of selling oil to the Chinese companies at low prices.

"Zarif stressed the significance of taking into consideration the national interest in drafting the document," the Iranian lawmaker said.

"The rumors on Iran-China relations are the clear manifestation of the animosity towards the two countries," Amouie quoted Zarif as saying.

During the 2016 visit of China's President Xi Jinping to Tehran, the two sides decided to design a 25-year comprehensive roadmap,

## Iran-China Strategic Roadmap "a Unique Defeat for U.S."

TEHRAN (MNA) - A member of the Expediency Council said that the Iran-China Strategic Partnership Program will bring about a unique and unparalleled defeat for the U.S. in the international arena.

Speaking on the strategic contract between Iran and China on Sunday, he said, "Iran-China Strategic Partnership Program is not a contract but a roadmap that will specify Iran's strategy in the region."

This strategic contract has not yet been signed since details of the contract should first be determined, he added.

This strategic document showed that the Islamic Republic of Iran has established relations with the world's number one power of future and the two sides have agreed that if a third party enters the deal, they will protect the strategic contract and will not allow intervention of

another country, Aghamohammadi emphasized.

Turning to the sanctions imposed by the U.S. against Iran, he said, "if this strategic partnership program is signed between Iran and China, sanctions imposed by the U.S. against the country will be ditched and this is why U.S. Secretary of State Pompeo is worried about this contract."

Conclusion of a joint roadmap between Iran and China will completely disrupt many malicious plans of the United States, Aghamohammadi reiterated.

The most important issue in this contract is that economic and defensive ties between the two countries will be more strengthened, he said, adding, "Cooperation of Iran and China under this contract can lead to the U.S. expulsion from the region."

## Iran Produces 6.5m Masks a Day

TEHRAN (IRNA) - According to the deputy minister of industry, mines and trade, Iran is now producing 6.5 million 3-layered and N95 masks a day.

Mehdi Sadeqi-Niaraki told IRNA that the until recently the overproduction of N95 was exported but, now, export of masks has been banned.

Sadeqi-Niaraki said that there is no shortage in production of alcohol, nursing protective gowns, disinfectants, and different kinds of detergent inside the country.

He said since the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak, production of masks has increased by 3000%.

Only 200,000 masks were produced then, which has reached 6.5 million. If the production by volunteers, people, and the Armed Forces are added to the number, it will be much bigger than what is now.

The deputy minister added that now that wearing masks in crowded public places is mandatory, exporting the N95 masks is banned.

## KSC Wins Exemplary Unit Award of Khorasan Razavi Province

**IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK**

TEHRAN - Khorasan Steel Complex Company by scoring the most points for its performance in last Iranian calendar year won the Exemplary Unit Award in Khorasan Razavi Province.

According to reports, the jury for choosing the top and exemplary units of Khorasan Razavi Province, after evaluating the performance of Khorasan Steel Complex Company in the last Iranian year, presented the company with Exemplary Unit Award of the province. The company scored the most points among the mineral industries units for winning the award.

The CEO of company Mr. Kasra Ghafoori hailed the achievement and said the achievement is indebted to endeavors of personnel of the company in all sections. He said Khorasan Steel Complex Company is one of the prominent companies in the province and the country for its performance in different fields like provision, production, sales, exports, commitment to national standards, management and workforce.

Ghafoori added that the fortunately these indicators reveal themselves in productivity, reduction in energy consumption and environmental obligations.

He said in mineral industries, the balance and sustainability in production and keeping the quality of production and retaining the share from the market and exports is very crucial and fortunately Khorasan Steel Complex Company has been successful in it and it has been the secret behind its successes to become the biggest industrial front in east of the country.

He expressed hope that by linking steel production units of the company to mines and mineral reserves of Sangam, the complex would materialize sustainable production in a long-term scale.



## Industry Ministry Allows Over \$800m of Foreign Investment in 3 Months

**IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK**

TEHRAN - Of the total number of foreign investments accepted in the mentioned period, 26 cases or 45 percent were attracted to the industry, mining, and trade sectors, according to the latest statistics released by the Industry Ministry.

Based on the statistics, 68 percent of the ministry's foreign investment was appealed by the industry sector, followed by mining and trade with 20 percent and 12 percent, correspondingly.

The major capacity of foreign investment in the mentioned period was appealed by the groups of manufacturing chemical products, Internet businesses, and coke manufacturing, in addition to oil products.

Therefore, the first four countries in terms of the value of investment were Germany, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Austria, and China, and the largest number of investments were made by Afghanistan with eight cases, followed by China, UAE, and Germany.





It was discussed at the annual general assembly meeting of Golgohar Mining and Industrial Company.

# Dividend of 900 Rials Per Share

## Golgohar's 30% Role in Supplying Steel Raw Materials in 2019

The meeting of the Annual General Assembly of Golgohar Mining and Industrial Company (Public Joint Stock Company) entitled "Review of the performance of the fiscal year ending March 20, 2019" was held yesterday in the conference hall of the Ministry of Interior.



At the beginning of the meeting, Jamshid Malarmarman, CEO of Golgohar Mining and Industrial Company, said: "Our efforts are based on the basic and important indicators of the role of Golgohar Mining and Industrial Company." Let's focus on the development and production of a large economic enterprise such as Golgohar, as the largest supplier of steel chains in the country. Referring to the pivotal role of the company in the country's steel chain, Golgohar CEO added: "Out of 3 billion tons of iron ore reserves in the country, there is about 30% in Golgohar region and this shows that Golgohar region is one of the main potentials in supplying steel raw materials." The country is in line with the country's comprehensive steel plan. Announcing that Golgohar was the first producer of concentrate and pellets in the country in 2019, he said: Golgohar region has played a 43% role in supplying the country's steel raw materials. In terms of concentrated production growth, we have produced more than 16 million tons, which is about 3% higher than in 2018. In the field of pellet production growth, we have produced more than 12 million tons, which is about 4% higher than the 2018 production. Mullah Rahman emphasized; Today, you are a shareholder in a company that is the main supplier of steel feed to the country and plays a key role in increasing the country's production. "Shareholders are not worried about the value of their shares and assets for decades to come," said Golgohar's CEO. It is true that from last year until today, the shareholders' stock return has been 450%, but in the future, this return will be even higher. Golgohar's entire effort is on fidelity, and the stakeholder group wants management to move in the direction of a leap in production. Referring to Golgohar's activities in the field of development, he said: "In 2019, we completed more than 8,200 billion tomans of semi-finished projects, put them in production, and it was inaugurated by the President." This year, we also promise that more than 16,000 billion tomans of the new development plan will be put into operation. We have also targeted more than 30,000 billion tomans for new development projects. In this way, Golgohar Company has been able to create the right system and plan for the next 5 years by producing, producing and managing properly and transparently. Referring to the development indicators in this collection, Mullah Rahman said: The company's net consolidated profit was about 6900 billion tomans, which is a growth of 54% compared to the same period last year. Consolidated revenue from our sales in 2019 was more than 17,000 billion tomans, which means a 53% growth of Golgohar. Golgohar's sales revenue was 13,000 billion tomans, which shows that in 2019, we have a 44% increase in sales revenue compared to 2018. The profit we have allocated to investors from the project is promising a good future for Golgohar Company and shareholders. Referring to the infrastructure and capabilities in this area, he said: "Last year we opened a power plant, and this year we are facing the Persian Gulf water project." Liquidity injection has been made to complete and launch the Persian Gulf Water Supply Project in 2019 so that we can open this project this year. In the continuation of this meeting, the shareholders expressed their opinions and raised their questions. The supervisors and the CEO of Golgohar Mining and Industrial Company answered the questions, then the representative of the independent auditor read the audit report and the representative of the Stock Exchange and Securities Organization also expressed his opinions. The meeting focused on Golgohar's capabilities in development, investment and production. In line with the policies of the Ministry of Industry, Mines and Trade and the support of the Organization for the Development and Renovation of Mines and Mining Industries of Iran, efforts should be made to distribute profits appropriately for the development of development projects. Also, in the end, according to the proposal of the Presidium of the Assembly and the agreement of the members of the General Assembly, it was decided to distribute 900 Rials per share. In the audit report, the auditor stated that this was the first time since 2007 that the audit had been acceptable and inconsistent.

An overview of the company's financial and operational performance in this year

Provide a report on the company's financial performance in the last two years in comparison with the percentage of changes compared to the previous year and explain the main related reasons:

Statistics - million rials

Profit and loss statement items:

Profit and loss statement for the fiscal year ending March 20, 2019				Profit and loss statement for the fiscal year ending March 20, 2020				Title
Total	Powerhouse	Pellets, sponge iron and steel ingots	Granular iron and concentrat	Total	Powerhouse	Pellets, sponge iron and steel ingots	Granular iron and concentrat	
70131056	1241445	45387589	23502022	80168502	1473582	45770413	32924507	Internal operating income
1514780		1182108	332672	17785877		16629687	1156190	Export operating income
71645836	1241445	46569697	23834694	97954379	1473582	62400100	34080697	Total operating income
(44441699)	(901425)	(31217777)	(12322497)	(50715531)	(1000896)	(32186785)	(17527850)	The total cost of operating income
27204137	340020	15351920	11512197	47238848	472686	30213315	16552847	Gross profit
389959		46570	343389	437200		62400	374800	Administrative costs - general and sales
26814178	340020	15305350	11168808	46801648	472686	30150915	16178047	Operating Profit
0				265530				financial costs
1053758				7142714				Other non-operating expenses and income
27867936				53678832				Net profit before tax
0				3667694				tax
27867936				50011138				Net profit
832				1137				Earnings per share - Rials

The company's net profit in fiscal year 2019 compared to fiscal year 2018, is 22143202 million rials and has an increase of 79 percent.



## Polarized North Macedonia Votes Amid Virus Surge

SKOPJE (AFP) - North Macedonia heads to the polls Wednesday to elect a government in the midst of a resurgence of coronavirus cases, which has fuelled a bitter blame-game between rival camps.

The pandemic has heightened divides in a Balkan state whose acrimonious political scene has lurched from crisis to crisis in recent years. On one side are the Social Democrats led by former prime minister Zoran Zaev, who is touting his success in ushering the country into NATO and getting a green light to start EU membership talks. His right-wing rivals in VMRO-DPMNE, however, argue that the price of a name change was too high -- Skopje added "North" to the country's name last year in order to end a decades-old row with Greece, which claims exclusive rights to the name Macedonia for its own province.



## Seoul Mayor's Funeral Held Despite Objections

SEOUL (AFP) - The funeral service for Seoul mayor Park Won-soon, who took his own life after being accused of sexual harassment, was held Monday despite a petition against the city-run ceremony signed by half a million people.

Former human rights lawyer Park was a heavyweight figure in the ruling Democratic party and ran South Korea's sprawling capital -- home to almost a fifth of the national population -- for nearly a decade.

He was found dead on a mountain Friday, a day after his former secretary filed a police complaint against him, widely reported to involve sexual harassment.



## Two Killed in Azerbaijan-Armenia Border Clashes



BAKU (AFP) - Arch-foes Armenia and Azerbaijan traded accusations of launching a military offensive using artillery fire along their shared border on Sunday, with Baku reporting two troops killed.

Azerbaijan's defense ministry said Armenia's "offensive" from its northern Tavush region was met with a "counterstrike" and retreated.

"Two Azerbaijani servicemen were killed and five more wounded," it added.

Yerevan, on its part, accused Baku of "using artillery in an attack aimed at capturing (Armenian) positions."

"They were repulsed, suffering losses in manpower. There were no casualties among Armenian servicemen," Armenia's defense ministry spokeswoman, Shushan Stepanyan, said in a Facebook post.

The two former Soviet republics have for decades been locked in a simmering conflict over Nagorno Karabakh, a breakaway territory which was at the heart of a bloody war in the 1990s.

But the Sunday clashes were far from Karabakh, and directly between the two Caucasus states, which happens rarely.

Since a fragile 1994 ceasefire, peace talks between Baku and Yerevan have been mediated by the "Minsk Group" of diplomats from France, Russia, and the United States.

Sunday's clashes erupted days after Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev raised the spectre of a fresh war with Armenia and denounced stalled peace talks.

On Tuesday, Aliyev threatened to withdraw from Karabakh negotiations "if they yield no results." He did not provide further details.

Citing the right to self-defence enshrined in the United Nations Charter, he rejected the negotiators' premise that "there is no military solution to the conflict."

An all-out war between the two countries could potentially envelop the entire Caucasus, dragging in regional powers -- Armenia's military ally Russia and Azerbaijan's patron Turkey -- which compete for geopolitical influence in the strategic region.

Commenting on the clashes on Sunday, Aliyev said "Armenia's military adventure is aimed at dragging into the conflict the military-political organisation of which it is a member."

He was referring to the Moscow-led Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO).

Aliyev accused Yerevan of military buildup along the two countries' border and of "regularly" shelling civilian targets in Azerbaijan.

## Polish President Duda Wins Re-Election

WARSAW (Reuters) - Polish President Andrzej Duda has won five more years in power on a deeply conservative platform after a closely fought election that is likely to deepen the country's isolation in the European Union.

Nearly final results from Sunday's presidential election put him on more than 51%, giving him an unassailable lead over Warsaw mayor Rafal Trzaskowski, who won almost 49% of the votes, the National Election Commission said.

Duda is allied with the ruling nationalist Law and Justice (PiS) party, and his victory will give the government a new mandate to pursue reforms of the judiciary and media which the executive European Commission says subvert democratic standards.

"I don't want to speak on behalf of the campaign staff, but I think that this difference is large enough that we have to accept the result," Grzegorz Schetyna, the former head of the opposition Civic Platform grouping that fielded Trzaskowski.



## Mexico Becomes Country With Fourth-Highest Covid-19 Death Toll

MEXICO CITY (Dispatches) - Deaths in Mexico from the coronavirus pandemic rose above 35,000 on Sunday, with the Latin American country overtaking Italy for the world's fourth-highest death total, according to Reuters data.

But leftist President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said on Sunday that the pandemic was "losing intensity" in Mexico, and blamed what he called "conservative media" for causing alarm.

Mexico on Sunday recorded 276 additional fatalities and 4,482 new infections to bring its coronavirus death toll to 35,006, with 299,750 confirmed cases. Italy has recorded 34,954 deaths and 243,061 cases. Mexico trails the United States, Brazil and the UK in total deaths. While Italy appears to have tamed the virus, the pandemic is showing few signs of easing in Mexico, where the government has faced criticism for reopening its economy too soon.

Lopez Obrador said he was briefed on the pandemic this past week and was optimistic. "The report is positive, good. The conclusion is that the pandemic is going down, that it is losing intensity," he said in a video message.

Lopez Obrador also backed Hugo Lopez-Gatell, Mexico's deputy health minister and coronavirus czar, after criticism of his handling of the crisis.

Lopez-Gatell has kept revising his projections for total fatalities and as recently as June forecast up to 35,000 deaths through October. In early May, the estimate was 6,000. The coronavirus death toll per million residents in Mexico, whose population numbers about 120 million, is the 16th highest in the world, according to data by research firm Statista. But Mexican officials say the true toll is likely much higher due to limited testing. A Reuters analysis of funeral-home data in May indicated a toll more than double the reported figures.

Several former officials have criticized Lopez Obrador's administration for its management of the epidemic. Former Health Minister Salomon Chertorivski, who held the post from 2011 to 2012, said on Thursday the government had reopened the economy before meeting globally established criteria for doing so. He added that Mexico might need to impose a new lockdown.

## Pope Joins Criticism of Turkey Turning Hagia Sophia Into Mosque

VATICAN (AFP) - Pope Francis on Sunday joined an international chorus of condemnation of Turkey's decision to convert Istanbul's iconic Hagia Sophia landmark back into a mosque.

"I think of Hagia Sophia, and I am very saddened," Pope Francis said towards the end of his midday sermon in Saint Peter's Square. It was the Vatican's first reaction to Turkey's decision to transform the Byzantine-era monument back into a mosque, a decision that has already drawn criticism from around the world.

The Vatican newspaper Osservatore Romano on Saturday carried reaction from different countries to Friday's decision to turn the monument from a museum back into a mosque, but without any comment.

A magnet for tourists worldwide, the Hagia Sophia was first constructed 1,500 years ago as a cathedral in the Christian Byzantine Empire and it was there they crowned their emperors. It was converted into a mosque after the Ottoman conquest of Constantinople in 1453, then became a museum in 1935.

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who critics say is chipping away at the Muslim-majority country's secular pillars, announced Friday that Muslim prayers would begin on July 24 at the UNESCO World Heritage

site. Several other Christian leaders have already spoken out against Turkey's decision.

Bishop Hilarion, who heads the Russian Orthodox Church's department for external church relations, described it as "a blow to global Christianity".

The World Council of Churches, which represents 350 Christian churches, said it had written to Erdogan expressing their "grief and dismay".

The head of the Greek Orthodox Church, Archbishop Ieronymos, on Sunday denounced what he described as the "instrumentalisation of religion to partisan or geopolitical ends". "The outrage and the arrogance doesn't just concern the Orthodox Church and Christianity but all of civilised humanity... independently of religion," he added.

Greek Culture Minister Lina Mendoni took a similar view, calling Turkey's decision "a provocation to the civilised world". Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis also condemned the move, not just for the damage it would do to relations between Greece and Turkey, but Ankara's relations with "the European Union, UNESCO and the world community".

The transformation of the Hagia Sophia dominated the headlines in Greek newspapers this weekend.



## Britain, France Agree Joint Unit to Fight Migrant Traffickers

PARIS (AFP) - The interior ministers of France and Britain on Sunday signed an agreement creating a new joint police intelligence unit to combat migrant traffickers and reduce the "unsustainable" numbers crossing the Channel illegally.

France's new Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin and his British counterpart Priti Patel met on Sunday in Calais in northern France, a region where migrants have traditionally gathered in a bid to find a way to get to Britain.

"We signed a new agreement to create a joint intelligence cell which will crack down on gangs behind vile people smuggling operation," Patel wrote on Twitter after the meeting. She said they had discussed "the unsustainable levels of illegal migration across the Channel."

The Franco-British unit will allow services to share intelligence quickly and will consist of six British and six French police officers based in Coquelles outside Calais, Darmanin told reporters.

Traffickers "are those who take advantage of the human distress of people who want to cross the English Channel and who, no doubt, are not being punished sufficiently at the moment," said Darmanin. Channel crossing attempts have increased over the last year despite the danger of heavy maritime traffic, strong currents and low water temperatures.

"Together, we must strengthen our security cooperation, in particular in fight against the illegal crossings of the English Channel by migrants risking their lives," Darmanin wrote on Twitter as he hosted Patel.

In 2019, 2,758 migrants were rescued by the French and British authorities while trying to make the crossing -- four times more than in 2018, according to French officials.

The coronavirus pandemic has reinforced the trend, with the reduced number of trucks going through the Channel Tunnel leading migrants to opt for small boats instead. French emergency services rescued 21 migrants in three operations on Saturday after their bids to reach Britain floundered in the Channel, officials said.







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## Huawei to Request UK to Delay 5G Network Removal

LONDON (Reuters) - China's Huawei Technologies has requested a meeting with UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson to work out a deal to delay its potential removal from the country's 5G phone network, the Sunday Times newspaper reported on Sunday.

The Chinese telecoms equipment maker is seeking to delay its removal from the from the country's 5G telecoms networks until after elections in June 2025, in the expectation that the new government may reverse the decision, the newspaper reported. Huawei will in return pledge to maintain its equipment in the UK, which is also used in the 2G, 3G and 4G networks, the report added.



## Improved Demand Outlook Calls for Easing of OPEC+ Oil Production Cuts

LONDON (Dispatches) - ondon — With oil prices and global demand rebounding, the OPEC+ alliance will stick to its timeline of paring back its landmark production cuts at the end of July, sources familiar with the deliberations told S&P Global Platts.

The 23-country OPEC+ coalition — which together controls about half of the world's oil production — instituted an unprecedented 9.7 million b/d cut accord in May during the depths of the COVID-19 crisis, but expects to downsize the cuts to 7.6 million b/d starting in August, as scheduled, instead of extending them, the sources said. The key Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee, co-chaired by Saudi Arabia and Russia, the two largest members of the coalition, will convene online July 15 and make a final recommendation. August term volumes for major crude exporting countries have already been set, making it impractical for the coalition to make changes to the deal for the month.

"We are satisfied with what is going on" in the market, one Persian Gulf OPEC+ source said.

Another Persian Gulf delegate said he expects a smooth JMMC meeting, with major economies showing signs of recovery and no significant shutdowns occurring. Disputes over quota compliance have largely been resolved, the source added, asking not to be named due to the sensitivity of the discussions. The International Energy Agency on July 10 said the worst of the pandemic's impact had been weathered and the market was set to tighten significantly and flip into deficit in the second half of the year. But it also warned that a resurgence of the infection, particularly in North and South America, was "casting a shadow over the outlook."

A sustained second wave of COVID-19 cases could undo the economic gains forged over the last few months.

"As OPEC+ plays its part in rebalancing the oil market, economic growth will nonetheless hold the key to allowing oil prices to rise," Harry Tchilinguirian, a senior oil economist at BNP Paribas, said. On the supply side, war-torn Libya remains a wildcard, as forces grapple for control of ports and key oil infrastructure, and the OPEC+ coalition must also guard against members' temptation to overpump their quotas as prices rise.

Strong compliance with the production quotas — driven in large part by Saudi and Russian diplomatic pressure — has played a major role in lifting crude oil prices from historic lows in April, when NYMEX crude futures went negative for the first time and ICE Brent slid into the teens. Both benchmarks have traded above \$40/b in recent days. In its upcoming monthly oil market report on July 14, the OPEC secretariat is expected to reveal production data showing that the OPEC+ alliance achieved 107% of its committed cuts in June, according to figures seen by Platts. That resulted in about 10.4 million b/d — more than 10% of pre-pandemic oil demand — being taken off the market.

Though the quotas are set to be eased in August, some of the production gains may be offset by compensatory cuts from Iraq, Nigeria, Kazakhstan, Angola and other OPEC+ members that did not fully comply with their quotas in May and June. Those countries have agreed to make additional cuts in July, August and September equivalent to their overproduction, which officials estimate would total up to about 300,000 to 400,000 b/d, on top of the scheduled 7.6 million b/d cuts those months. With several countries easing COVID-19 lockdown measures and travel picking up, the OPEC+ alliance sees robust oil demand ahead. Seasonal oil-fired power generation in the Middle East, where electricity consumption for air conditioning peaks in the summer, will add significant demand in the coming months.

## Lebanon Fencing Off More of Its Economy Against Currency Crisis



BEIRUT (Dispatches) - Lebanon is seeking to protect more of its economy from the dramatic depreciation in the local currency, fixing a subsidised exchange rate for imported food after deeming a wholesale abandonment of the decades-old peg too costly for now.

The central bank, also known as Banque Du Liban, will provide dollars for imports of food and raw materials and to licensed money changers at a rate of 3,900 pounds per dollar, governor Riad Salameh told reporters this week. Imports of wheat, fuel and pharmaceuticals — considered strategic goods — as well as banking operations will be priced at the official peg of 1,507.5. Savers withdrawing cash from dollar accounts are now given pounds at the 3,900 rate.

The latest measures came after the currency's decline on the black market accelerated, with the pound losing some 60% of its value against the dollar last month alone, briefly nearing 10,000. It's also a step toward unifying the multiple exchange rates, some of which were introduced by the central bank in recent months as the worst economic crisis in decades unfolded.

The International Monetary Fund, with which Lebanon is negotiating a multi-billion dollar rescue package, asked authorities in the initial round of talks to unify the rates. They're reluctant to ditch the peg entirely without securing an aid package first, though, fearing the move would plunge even more people into poverty and erode purchasing power.

Instead, the central bank's betting that a dramatic decline in imports due to the dollar shortage will rebalance the system and allow it to channel what hard currency it has left more effectively. In the first quarter of this year, Lebanon's trade deficit dropped by half to \$2bn from the same period last year. Total imports dropped by an annual 41% in March, according to Blom Bank.

Given the depth of the currency chaos, the slow pace of IMF talks and the dwindling foreign currency reserves, which Salameh said this week had reached about \$20bn, that might not be enough. "They've managed to compress imports so aggressively that a key source of demand for that FX has been reduced but there isn't enough to ensure a unified rate," said Nafez Zouk of Oxford Economics.

About 300 food items, including meat, vegetables and milk, are currently eligible for the special rate. The list will gradually be expanded to cover non-food items that people use on a daily basis.

Food inflation soared 190% in May from a year earlier, reigniting protests and riots, and is likely to have risen further in June due to the currency collapse. With few hard currency inflows from remittances and no aid or investment in sight, the government has become increasingly reliant on the central bank to finance imports and its own needs, seeking to borrow 1.2tn pounds for a social safety fund.

Economists have warned that unless Lebanon takes urgent steps to stabilise the currency and restore confidence, allowing it secure aid and return to the bond market, the country could be headed toward a new bout of hyperinflation and a long period of depressed growth.

"The sharp depreciation of USD/LL in the black market since April suggests that the status quo, whether by policy design, inaction or paralysis, raises the risk of a costly inflation spiral," Bank of America wrote in a research note on Lebanon this week.

# Countering Terrorism During the COVID-19 Pandemic

*By Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism*

The wide-ranging impacts of COVID-19 have the potential to exacerbate grievances, undermine social cohesion and fuel conflict, creating the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and violent extremism. Terrorists are exploiting the disruption, uncertainty and economic hardships caused by COVID-19 to spread fear, hate and division and radicalize and recruit new followers. While governments around the world are focused on combating the virus, ISIL and al-Qaida have adapted to the new context, aimed to reassert themselves online and offline, and urged on its followers and affiliates to ramp up attacks. The pandemic has also highlighted vulnerabilities to new violent extremist narratives conducive to terrorism, as well as emerging forms of terrorism, including cyberattacks against healthcare institutions.

Deadly global threats such as terrorism and COVID-19 require us to act together, with a renewed sense of unity and solidarity. As the United Nations marks its 75th anniversary this year, multilateralism is as essential now as it was at the end of the Second World War.

To play our part, the United Nations has just held a 'Virtual Counter-Terrorism Week' (6-10 July 2020) consisting of ten interactive discussions to assess the strategic and practical challenges of countering terrorism in a global pandemic environment. It brought together governments, civil society organizations and representatives from the private sector, youth and regional organizations from around the world to share their expert analysis, exchange innovative ideas and strengthen international counter-terrorism cooperation.

So what were the key takeaways from the week? We heard how terrorist threats are likely to continue to diversify with the possibility of attacks involving cyber disruption of critical infrastructure, biological agents, the weaponization of deadly diseases and hate speech. There was broad agreement that the huge stresses and strains caused by COVID-19 will severely test the resilience and cohesion of our societies over the next few years. This underlined the importance of preventive measures and the involvement of all parts of society, especially women and young people, in developing and implementing counter-terrorism policies and programmes. It also reinforced the Secretary-General's call for a global ceasefire to fight the virus, alleviate human suffering and break the cycle of violence in which terrorism can thrive. There was broad consensus among speakers that it is more critical than ever



that counter-terrorism responses fully protect and promote human rights and the rule of law, as their potential abuse is higher in a COVID-19 context. Freedom of expression and the right to privacy are cases in point. The dire situation in the camps and places of detention holding suspected foreign terrorist fighters and thousands of associated women and children in Syria and Iraq, another topic discussed during the Virtual Counter-Terrorism Week, remains a challenge. We all have a responsibility to urgently repatriate as many of these people as possible to provide, as appropriate, fair prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration in society. Children should come first and be repatriated without delay.

Terrorists have adapted to the new COVID-19 world and so must we. The United Nations has been nimble in changing the way it works to better support the efforts of countries and local communities to prevent and counter terrorism around the world. More and more, we are using e-learning tools to shift our training programmes online and utilizing modern communication platforms to engage with new audiences, especially young people. Over the past week, we launched a Virtual Expo involving interactive maps, compelling stories and informative

videos to showcase the impactful capacity-building work of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre within the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism, confirming its reputation as a global Centre of Excellence. This work is only possible thanks to the generous financial contributions from a wide range of donor countries.

As we celebrated on 26 June the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Charter, Secretary-General António Guterres stressed how the COVID-19 pandemic, an unprecedented human crisis in our lifetime, "has underscored the world's fragilities." We require an unprecedented response to prevent terrorists from taking advantage of those fragilities. We must work together to ensure that COVID-19 does not become the catalyst for a surge in global terrorism and violent extremism that exploits the long-standing social, political and economic inequalities, and discontent exposed by the virus. We must continually review, adapt and strengthen our counter-terrorism efforts to stay one step ahead of those who seek to do us harm. Supporting victims of terrorism and preventing more innocents to become one of them must be our priority.

The virtual discussions over the last week have shown that today, in the midst of a global pandemic, it is more important than ever to work collectively, with common purpose and determination, to build resilient societies and rid the world of terrorism.

## Pakistan Likely to Ease Regulatory Curbs to Boost Economy



ISLAMABAD (Dispatches) - Prime Minister Imran Khan on Saturday approved, in principle, a set of recommendations to tap the potential of neglected sectors of the economy by lowering regulatory restrictions and digitising the economy.

Over 60 recommendations in eight areas of the economy have been finalised by an economic think-tank, with representation from both the government and the private sector.

The prime minister is expected to announce these decisions in the shape of a package this month after fulfilling procedural formalities.

The prime minister approved most of the recommendations, except for a major proposal to relax minimum capital requirements for banks after concerns expressed by both the prime minister himself and the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) governor.

Bankers, present at the think-tank, had pushed for reducing the statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) — the money that the banks had to keep in reserve before lending to clients, arguing that this would spare hundreds of billions of rupees for lending to the housing and small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

However, the prime minister was of the view that there was no guarantee that the banks would not invest in the government debt to make the easiest and safest returns, according to sources, who attended the meeting.

The central bank governor also raised the issues about implications of lowering the guard for the financial sector. Some of the banks currently do not meet minimum capital adequacy and the SLR limit and these would be the main beneficiaries of any such move.





## PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	13:10
■ Evening (Maghreb)	20:41
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:18
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:00

37. Man is a creature of haste: soon (enough) will I show you My Signs; then ye will not ask Me to hasten them!  
38. They say: "When will this promise come to pass, if ye are telling the truth?"  
Surah 21. The Prophets ( 37 - 38 )

## IMF Urges Caution on Borrowing as Global Debt Rises to Record High

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - The International Monetary Fund called on governments to be cautious as they borrow more money to cushion their economies from the blow of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Public debt is now more than 100 per cent of global gross domestic product and has surpassed the record level it reached at the end of the Second World War, according to Vitor Gaspar, director of the fund's fiscal affairs department, and Gita Gopinath, chief economist.

"The need for continued fiscal support is clear, but this begs the question of how countries can finance it without debt becoming unsustainable," the IMF executives said in a blog post. Fiscal deficits this year are expected to be more than five times higher in advanced economies and probably more than double in emerging market economies.

This is a jump in public debt of 26 percentage and seven percentage points of GDP, respectively, relative to the fund's World Economic Outlook forecasts in January.

Governments will benefit from borrowing costs that are at historical lows and projected to "stay that way for a long time".

This allows for the continuity of fiscal responses as policymakers look to strengthen health infrastructure, stem job losses, save smaller businesses and stave off larger bankruptcies.

The pandemic, which forced governments to close borders and shut all but essential businesses, has taken a heavy toll on the world's economy, pushing it into its deepest recession since the Great Depression.

In June, the IMF forecast that the world economy would contract by 4.9 per cent this year, down 1.9 percentage points from its April forecast, before staging a sluggish recovery next year to grow by 5.4 per cent. Two thirds of governments topped up their fiscal support to offset the effects of the pandemic, pumping about \$11 trillion (Dh40.4tn) into their economies, compared to \$8tn in April.

The fund projects a cumulative loss to the global economy of more than \$12tn in 2020 and 2021 as a result of the virus. Although most economies have begun reopening, the rate of infection is still on the rise in the US, Brazil and India.

The virus has infected more than 12.7 million people worldwide and killed more than 567,000, with the US accounting for about 26 per cent of infections worldwide, according to Johns Hopkins University, which is tracking the outbreak.

The IMF executives said while "caution is advised" on public borrowing, "the top priority is still public health".

"While the trajectory of public debt could drift up further in an adverse scenario, an earlier-than-warranted fiscal retrenchment presents an even greater risk of derailing the



recovery, with larger future fiscal costs," Mr Gaspar and Ms Gopinath said.

The IMF said that global public debt – excluding the US and China – is expected to stabilise next year, spurred by low interest rates and an economic rebound.

Borrowing costs, however, could increase rapidly, particularly for emerging economies and frontier markets, as was the case in March. Countries that entered the crisis with high debt and low economic growth will need to find a way back to sustainable fiscal balances, the fund said. "The need for fiscal action does not end here, as we are not out of the woods," Mr Gaspar and Ms Gopinath said.

"Even as many countries tentatively exit the Great Lockdown, in the absence of a solution to the health crisis, huge uncertainties remain about the path of the recovery."

The fund said the international community must ensure vulnerable developing countries that lack the resources to support healthcare systems are given access to concessional financing and, in some cases, grants.

The IMF has so far extended emergency assistance to more than 70 countries battling the pandemic. The fund said poorer nations may require additional debt relief, including through the G20 debt suspension initiative announced in April.

The program allows poorer countries to suspend their debt repayments for the remainder of this year to free up funding to fight the virus.

Last month, the G20's International Financial Architecture working group heard that so far 41 countries had applied for the debt relief.

### Tehran Waiting for...

FROM PAGE 1

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif in a letter to the High Representative of the European Union Josep Borrell once again referred the cases of the European countries' non-compliance to the Joint Commission for settlement in accordance with Article 36 of the JCPOA.

Foreign Minister's letter warned that any interference in the ongoing cooperation between Iran and the IAEA would be contrary to the provisions of the JCPOA and could have negative impacts on the existing cooperation under the safeguards agreement, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Abbas Mousavi earlier said.

Foreign Ministry spokesman stressed the need to maintain and fully implement the provisions of the JCPOA by all parties, especially the need for Iran to fully benefit from the economic effects of the sanctions lifting system as envisaged in the deal, saying that Iran will take appropriate and proportionate action against any excessive and irresponsible behavior.

### Iran's Rupee...

FROM PAGE 1

Rezaei added that in recent months, rice exports from India to Iran have been halted due to the Indian Rice Exporters Union's obligation for providing the domestic market with rice and it has nothing to do with the country's policies towards Iran.

On India's reaction to Iran-China deal, he said every country has its own independent policy and if this agreement is just in expanding trade, India will have no reaction, but Iran has held several talks with Indians on preferential trade to expand bilateral ties.

Rezaei noted that Iran's cooperation with India continues at Chabahar Port, and transit and load of goods in the port has no problem but in the past four months, the Coronavirus pandemic has affected all affairs.

### Ansarullah...

FROM PAGE 1

There was no Saudi confirmation of where they were intercepted or whether anything was hit.

The Saudi-led coalition, however, claimed on Monday it had intercepted and destroyed the rockets and drones. The coalition did not report any casualties.

The attack came after Saudi fighter jets on Sunday pounded the Washhah district in Hajjah, leaving ten civilians dead and two others injured.

Oil company Saudi Aramco operates a 400,000-barrel-per-day refinery in the Red Sea city of Jizan, which lies around 60 km (40 miles) from the Yemen border.

The coalition, in a statement published by Saudi state news agency SPA, did not say where the objects were intercepted but said the drones had been launched from the Houthi-controlled capital Sana'a towards Saudi Arabia.

### U.S. Not After Talks...

FROM PAGE 1

The Russian envoy further criticized the European parties' inaction on the U.S. breach of the nuclear deal and their mere expression of regret. "We have told the Europeans that 'you only express regret.' Expression of regret alone is not enough."

Jagarian further said Russia and Iran have gotten used to the U.S. sanctions, saying, "We have expressed readiness to deepen economic cooperation with Iran."

The ambassador also said the value of Russian exports to Iran during the first five months of 2020 stood at around \$700 million, showing a 30 percent rise compared to the corresponding period last year.

Voicing Russia's readiness to take part in the INSTEX –the financial mechanism that the three European parties to the JCPOA have devised to maintain trade with Iran-, Jagarian said Moscow will find ways to continue cooperation with Tehran, with or without INSTEX.

The ambassador called for efforts to remove the obstacles in the way of banking cooperation between Russia and Iran, adding, "The banking problems still exist. The both countries are hit by sanctions, but we must find a solution to settle the artificial problems created by a third country. After all, we are in the same front with you."

In a telephone conversation in April, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin discussed ways to maintain and expand trade ties amid the outbreak of the coronavirus and promote mutual cooperation in the fight against the disease.

## East Africa Holds Its Ground as Africa's Fastest Growing Region

NAIROBI (Dispatches) - East African is holding its ground as Africa's fastest growing region despite the disruption caused by the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, according to the African Development Bank's (AfDB) East Africa regional economic outlook 2020 report released this past week.



Economic disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic has pushed East Africa's growth projection for 2020 down to 1.2 percent, a rate that outstrips other African regions, and is forecast to rebound to 3.7 percent in 2021, the AfDB said in a statement. "The projection is under the baseline scenario that assumes the virus is contained by the third quarter of this year," the bank said.

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, the region's economic growth was projected at more than 5 percent, well above the continent's average of 3.3 percent and the global average of 2.9 percent. However, Covid-19-induced shocks and a locust invasion had contributed to job losses and increased humanitarian needs, and would aggravate poverty and income inequality. In the worse-case scenario, in which the pandemic persisted until the end of 2020, growth was projected at 0.2 percent, still above Africa's predicted average of -1.7 percent and -3.4 percent under the two scenarios.

At the launch of the report in Nairobi on Wednesday, Simon Kiprono Chelugui, cabinet secretary of Kenya's labour ministry, said East African countries could overcome the effects of Covid-19 and turn their economies around by mitigating the external and domestic risks.

"We need to implement a decisive and coordinated response to contain the spread of Covid-19; mitigate its health and socio-economic effects; accelerate structural transformation; improve the investment climate; and maintain the peace and security of our region," he said.

The AfDB said the regional economic outlook indicated that the pandemic would affect East African economies in many ways, such as falling commodity prices and trade and restrictions on travel with a consequent negative impact on tourism. Waning financial flows had affected the region's fiscal and current account balances, while disruptions in supply chains had hurt food production and distribution. With schools closed, an estimated 90 million pupils had been excluded from the classroom.

AfDB East Africa regional office director general Nnenna Nwabufo pledged bank support to steer the region out of the crisis. "Our ambition is to address the adverse effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and ensure that social and economic development across the continent is accelerated, including through the creation of an African workforce of the future," she said. She noted that the bank had responded swiftly to provide urgently needed support to address the immediate impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, including support of US\$212 million to Kenya, US\$165 million to Ethiopia, US\$4 million to South Sudan, and US\$10 million to the Seychelles.

## Turkey's Negotiating Window With Greece, EU May Be Closing

ANKARA (Dispatches) - So many urgent issues are undermining Greece-Turkey relations today it's almost a surprise these two neighbours with a history of conflict are not already at war.

On Friday, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan finalised the conversion of Istanbul's iconic Hagia Sophia from a museum back into a mosque, a week after Greece's Foreign Ministry denounced such a move as unacceptable and a breach of the structure's UNESCO World Heritage status.

Built as a cathedral in the 6th century by Byzantine Emperor Justinian, Hagia Sophia holds a special place in the hearts of many Orthodox Christians, particularly in Greece, which sees itself as the heir of the Greek-speaking Byzantines of Constantinople. Greek officials described the reversion as an "open provocation to the civilised world" and said "the nationalism displayed by Erdoğan... takes his country back six centuries".

Underscoring Turkey's continued claims on a number of Greek islands in the Aegean Sea, Turkish Defence Minister Hulusi Akar on Wednesday told the BBC that, despite the Lausanne Treaty barring any militarisation of 23 Aegean islands, Greece maintained a military presence on 16 of them.

"Turkey's military and political elites completely disregard that Greece is not just about the mainland," Nikos Michailidis, an assistant professor of anthropology at the University of Missouri-St Louis, told Ahval in a podcast. "We have thousands of islands and this is something they don't want to see, don't want to accept."

Last week, the Greek air force intercepted Turkish jets and engaged them in mock dogfights after Turkish fighter planes committed 50 violations of Greek airspace over the Aegean in a single day, according to the Greek Reporter.

Cyprus has been a major source of Turkish-Greek tensions since at least 1974, when Turkish forces invaded the waterlocked nation in an effort to head off a coup plot from Athens. The island has since been divided between the EU-recognised Republic of Cyprus and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, recognised only by Turkey. Since early 2019, Turkey has launched six natural gas drilling operations in waters claimed by Cyprus and has said it plans more.

On Wednesday, the United States announced that Cypriot soldiers would be able to take part in a major U.S. military training programme – a possible first step toward ending the U.S. arms embargo on Cyprus. Turkey quickly criticised the move.

"Turkey has been bullying Greece," said Michailidis. "It has been bullying Cyprus. It's still occupying Cyprus and they don't want to negotiate a solution based on international law."



erased the island of Crete, which lies between the coasts of Libya and Turkey, off the map.

This week, Turkey reserved a vast area of the Eastern Mediterranean between Libya and Crete for naval exercises. Ankara has said it plans to begin drilling soon off the Libyan coast and possibly near Crete.

"The Greek government does hope that they won't dare to go and continue their drilling off the coast of Crete," said Michailidis. "This would create serious complications that might end up in a military confrontation."

Athens has warned that any drilling in its continental shelf will spark a heated response, and moved to strengthen ties with regional ally Israel. The two signed several defence agreements this month, outlining greater collaboration in weapons and training.

Their alliance is also about energy. In January, Greece, Israel and Cyprus signed a deal to build a 1,900-km undersea pipeline to carry natural gas from the Eastern Mediterranean's gas fields to Europe.

Last but not least is migration and refugees. London-based research group Forensics Architecture concluded this week that it was highly probable that Mohammed al-Arab, a 22-year-old from Aleppo, was killed by Greek soldiers in March. He was among thousands of migrants seeking to enter Greece after Turkey followed through on Erdoğan's threat to "open the gates" for refugees, possibly repeating the crisis of 2015-2016, when some 2 million migrants entered Europe.

Athens has rejected accusations of using live fire, and many have accused Turkey of weaponising refugees to pressure Europe into providing greater funding for the 3.5 million refugees already in Turkey, or to come to Turkey's aid in Syria's Idlib province, where some 2 million displaced people are living in ad hoc camps along the Turkish border.

Greece and the European Union are now facing calls to investigate al-Arab's death amid fears of increased Greek aggressions along the border. Deutsche Welle and Bellinca reported in May that Greek police had been forcibly deporting asylum-seekers back into Turkey, as Turkey had reportedly done with Syrians last year. There have also been several reports that Greek security forces have pushed migrant boats back toward Turkey and sent migrants back across the Aegean on windowless inflatable rafts.



## Aston Villa to Investigate Racist Abuse Aimed at Zaha

LONDON (AFP) - Aston Villa pledged to investigate and issue a lifetime ban against a supporter after Crystal Palace's Wilfried Zaha revealed a shocking series of racially-aggravated messages before Sunday's Premier League clash between the two sides.

Zaha posted on Twitter three screenshots of messages containing racial abuse from an Instagram account belonging to a Villa fan. "We deplore the disgusting racist messages sent to @wilfriedzaha," Villa said on the club's Twitter account.

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## Morikawa Outguns Thomas In Dramatic PGA Playoff

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - American Collin Morikawa tapped in a putt on the third playoff hole to outduel Justin Thomas in wild Sunday finish and capture the U.S. PGA Tour Workday Charity Open.

Morikawa, who had been the pacesetter through the first two rounds, rallied from three strokes down with three holes remaining to force the playoff at Muirfield Village Golf Club.

He then stayed alive by draining a 24-foot birdie putt on the first playoff hole immediately after third-round leader Thomas had made a 50-foot bomb.

8 IRAN NEWS

SPORTS

TUESDAY JULY 14, 2020

# Dominant Hamilton Cruises to 85th Win In Mercedes One-Two

VIENNA (Dispatches) - Lewis Hamilton secured his first win of the season and the 85th of his career with a perfectly-judged victory from pole position as Mercedes delivered a one-two finish in Sunday's Styrian Grand Prix.

The six-time world champion bounced back from a disappointing season-opening Austrian Grand Prix on the same Red Bull Ring circuit a week earlier with a consummate display.

His team-mate Valtteri Bottas, who won the curtain-raising race, finished 13.7 seconds adrift in second to deliver a solid Mercedes one-two, their first in Austria since 2015.

Max Verstappen was third for Red Bull, slowed by slight car damage in the final stages, ahead of his team-mate Alex Albon, who defended stoutly to finish fourth.

"It's great to be back up here and thanks to the team," said Hamilton.

"This feels like it has been a long time coming after a difficult weekend last time."

Bottas said he had enjoyed his battle with Verstappen.

"Starting fourth, this was damage limitation for me," he said.

"I tried, but we are just a bit too slow," admitted Verstappen.

Bottas leads the embryonic championship ahead of Hamilton with Lando Norris third.

Norris came home a remarkable fifth for McLaren after passing both Racing Points cars during a thrilling final lap, Sergio Perez taking sixth after starting from 17th on the grid, and Lance Stroll seventh.

Daniel Ricciardo was eighth for Renault, Carlos Sainz clocked fastest lap and finished ninth in the second McLaren and Daniil Kvyat 10th for Alpha Tauri.

## World Team Tennis to Kick Off Season With Safety Measures in Place

LONDON (Reuters) - World Team Tennis (WTT) kicks off its three-week regular season on Sunday, as the world of professional tennis moves forward in the United States during the coronavirus outbreak.

Back-to-back champion Springfield Lasers face the Orlando Storm to kick off opening day at the Greenbrier in West Virginia, with all matches taking place at the resort throughout the season, where mandatory testing and temperature checks, along with other safety precautions, are in place.

Four-time Grand Slam winner and comeback queen Kim Clijsters of Belgium joins the New York Empire, who are out for redemption after losing in the finals against the Lasers last season, while 2017 U.S. Open champion Sloane Stephens leads the expansion team Chicago Smash.

As many as 500 fans at a time will be allowed at the Greenbrier's 2,500-person stadium, making it among the rare few sporting events in North America to welcome attendees in the COVID-19 era.

Frances Tiafoe, a 22-year-old American who reached the quarterfinals at the 2019 Australian Open, was forced to drop out of the WTT events earlier this month after testing positive for COVID-19.

The event takes place weeks after the Adria Tour was cancelled following its second leg in Croatia due to numerous positive coronavirus tests among participants, including Novak Djokovic, the top-ranked player in the world.

## Blackwood Shines as West Indies Beat England In First Test

SOUTHAMPTON (Reuters) - West Indies beat England by four wickets on the final day of the first international test since the coronavirus break on Sunday, taking a 1-0 lead at the Ageas Bowl in a three-test series thanks to a 95-run knock by Jermaine Blackwood.

England made early inroads into the West Indies batting lineup on day five as the visitors targeted 200 to win, reducing them to 27-3 before Blackwood began to set the foundations for a big win for the Caribbean side, albeit behind closed doors.



team down after them working a whole week to bring the updates early. Too eager to gain those places in the first lap. I will learn from it."

Hamilton made a smooth start from his record 89th pole position, pulling clear of Verstappen and an aggressive Sainz.

There was early drama when the two Ferraris collided at Turn Three, Leclerc bouncing off the kerb as he attempted an over-ambitious move to pass Vettel and crashing into the rear of the German's car. The four-time champion's machine was badly damaged, the rear wing almost removed, and after limping to the pits he was forced to retire.

Leclerc survived, but abandoned the contest soon after the resultant Safety Car had pulled in. On resumption, Hamilton took control.

Having given a master-class in the wet on Saturday, this was, by comparison, a measured and strategic Sunday stroll.

The sport's only black race winner and champion showed no affects either from another muddled pre-race gesture by the drivers in support of F1's anti-racism stance in which he took a knee again, with at least 10 others, while four stood.

Hamilton soon built a commanding lead ahead of Verstappen's Red Bull, the Briton reeling off fastest laps at will while Mercedes team-mate Bottas closed in from third.

Verstappen was first to pit and rejoined behind the Finn, but ahead of team-mate Albon shortly before Esteban Ocon became the third retirement in his Renault.

Hamilton pitted from the lead after 28 laps, swapping his softs for a set of mediums, and was soon followed by Bottas, who returned 8.2 seconds adrift of Verstappen. Behind the leaders, the fastest man on track was Perez, who had carved through the field after starting 17th.

With 15 laps remaining, he was fifth and hounding Albon for fourth.

By this time, Verstappen was hampered by a flapping front-wing footplate and Bottas had closed to within a second.

On lap 66, Bottas passed him on the back straight, but the Dutchman fought back and forced him to try again on lap 67 when, finally, he sealed his spot in an inevitable Mercedes one-two.

## Tennis Getting Financially Stronger



ZURICH (Dispatches) - Tennis legend Roger Federer feels it is good for the sport that players are getting financially stronger and can compete in that aspect with other disciplines.

The 20-time Grand Slam champion recently was in the top spot on the annual Forbes list of the highest-paid athletes for the first time this year with \$106.3 million in pre-tax earnings.

The Swiss ace is the first tennis player to take the No. 1 rank since the list debuted in 1990, as per Forbes official website.

"Maybe it's good for tennis that we can compete with football, boxing, Formula 1 and basketball, where the wages are incredible. But I'm rather embarrassed when it's in the papers," Federer was quoted as saying in an interview with Zeit.

Swiss ace Federer recently said he expects to be at 100 per cent ahead of next season considering he was able to get a long break from the game due to coronavirus pandemic. "For me, it's been very nice to be in Switzerland for as long as I have been since the lockdown," Federer was quoted as saying by Tennis World.

"For the last 25 years or so, I have been traveling a lot, never spending two consecutive months at home; now, we have been in Switzerland for four or five months, enjoying ourselves.



# Tsitsipas Crushes Goffin at Ultimate Tennis Showdown

LONDON (Dispatches) - Stefanos Tsitsipas defeated David Goffin as he warmed up for Sunday's final day of the Ultimate Tennis Showdown.

The Greek athlete served eight aces as he crushed Goffin 4-0, with a careless Goffin conceding 25 unforced errors compared to his rival's 11.

Corentin Moutet defeated Holger Rune in

the opening match of Saturday's Ultimate Tennis Showdown round robin.

Fellow Frenchman Richard Gasquet defeated yet another player from France, Benoit Paire, 3-1.

The Frenchman won 3-2 in a tight match after going two ahead before Rune mounted a comeback only to be thwarted in the last game, again 3-2.

German's Dustin Brown won 3-2 against Alexei Popyrin in the following game after coming down from two frames down to win two on the bounce.

In the day's final game, Feliciano Lopez defeated Elliot Benchetrit 3-1.

Matteo Berrettini, David Goffin, Richard Gasquet and Stefanos Tsitsipas will compete for the chance to win the trophy.

## Tottenham Get Better Of Arsenal to Offer Mourinho Relief



LONDON (AFP) - Toby Alderweireld's towering header nine minutes from time gave Tottenham's season the tonic of a 2-1 win over Arsenal in the first north London derby at the Tottenham Hotspur stadium on Sunday.

Victory moves Spurs two points above their local rivals into eighth and keeps their chances of Europa League football next season alive, even if a return to the Champions League looks beyond them.

The loss was the first in six games for Arsenal, who drop to ninth, as old defensive frailties came back to haunt Mikel Arteta's men after an impressive spell.

Draws for both sides in midweek realistically ended any chance of Champions League football next season, even if Manchester City's appeal against a two-season ban from European competitions fails on Monday to pave the way for fifth place to qualify.

However, there was still the pride of north London to play for and plenty for both sides to prove ahead of a tight turnaround before next season. Tottenham failed to even muster a shot on target in a dire 0-0 draw at relegation-threatened Bournemouth on Thursday that raised more questions over their direction under Jose Mourinho.

There was more urgency from Spurs from the off as Lucas Moura tested Emiliano Martinez inside the first minute.

## Fans Return And Witness 9-0 PSG Rout



PARIS (Dispatches) - Paris Saint-Germain routed second division Le Havre in a friendly on Sunday remarkable not for the 9-0 score, but because it drew the biggest crowd for a match in one of Europe's 'Big Five' football nations since early March.

The French government relaxed the health protocols before the weekend to allow for a total attendance of 5,000, including players, journalists and staff, at games and while the match at Le Havre was not the first to be played, the others involved only lower-division clubs.

For the game at Le Havre, the tickets, priced between 30 euros (\$34) and 60 euros, sold out in six minutes.

"It is a victory for French football, sport in general," said outgoing Sports Minister Roxana Maracineanu who was at the match.

"I am delighted that football in France can resume in a popular way, with more people in the stadiums. It is the only country in western Europe to be able to do this."

Unlike Germany, England, Italy and Spain, France abandoned its league season in the face of the coronavirus pandemic, but when the other four countries resumed their leagues, they did so behind closed doors. Although social distancing rules were in place, fans took a few liberties once they were in the 25,000-capacity Stade Ocean on Sunday.