

Health Ministry Spokeswoman Has Reported 2,751 New Cases of Infection With the Novel Coronavirus, The Highest One-Day Number of Cases Since June 7, Raising the Total Number of Cases to 314,786

IRAN NEWS

Iran's Share in Total Volume of Kazakhstan's Export Reportedly Amounted to 0.4 Percent During The Reporting Period of 2020 Compared to 0.7 Percent During The Same Period Last Year

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2 DOMESTIC

Iran Craving Revenge for Gen. Soleimani's Blood



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Pakistan MP Says Mediation Prevented Saudi-Iran Escalation

ISLAMABAD (Dispatches) - Pakistan has played an important role in defusing tensions between Saudi Arabia and Iran, Prime Minister Imran Khan has told Al Jazeera in an exclusive interview, saying his country prevented a military escalation from taking place in the volatile region. Khan said in the interview due to be broadcast on Wednesday that a military confrontation between the two regional powers constituted the worst possible scenario for the Middle East, adding that, despite the slow pace of results, Islamabad's mediation efforts were continuing.

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State Printing Office of Iran (SPOI)
Tender of purchasing 384 Kg types of Pantone inks
Tender NO : 2099001065000029
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م.الف: ۱۴۹۴

Imports of Goods With Domestic Counterparts Not Allowed



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Acting Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Hossein Modarres Khiabani says the ministry will not let the goods with domestic counterparts be imported in order to protect domestic production and exports. Speaking to IRNA, Modarres Khiabani said that the ministry does not let the import of non-essential goods and goods with domestic counterparts, adding that so far tariffs for over 2500 luxury and non-essential goods and goods with domestic counterparts have been blocked. He said the mentioned goods led to exodus of over \$3.5b from the country in 2020 and last year some \$290m was spent for imports of those goods, adding that the ministry is trying to zero the amount of the forex for imports of non-essential goods and it wants the allocation of forex only for imports of the raw materials, machinery and essential goods.

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3 DOMESTIC

Gas Production To Touch 300 bcm By Yearend



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ViewPoint

By: Hamid Reza Naghashian



JCPOA and Constitutionalism Are Homogenous

August 4 (Mordad 14) is known in Iran as the day when King Mozaffar ad-Din Shah of the Qajar Dynasty proclaimed the Constitutionalism in Iran. There are some days in the history which are so important that their annual reviews gives us effective lessons. For sure, all of us from the childhood and the adolescent times have heard something about the Constitutional Revolution and the day Constitutionalism was proclaimed. Do you know why this date is so important in our history? Mordad 14 (August 4) has appropriated one day of our calendar.

The Second Constitutionalism was to take shape during the nuclear talks between President Hassan Rouhani's government with signatories of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) that the enemies even feared even to give this whit of concession to Iran or retreated. In Other words, the Constitutionalism had some concessions in its nature but it nourished and strengthened the dependent anti-religion and intellectual current and above all the Freemasonry.

See Page 7

کشتیر
Stop Killings In Kashmir
#One_year_siege



One year has passed since India revoked Kashmir's special status and intensified the killing of oppressed Muslims in the region.



Aron Groups

The Turning Point in The Transformation of Financial Markets



International trade and entering global markets is an opportunity to keep pace with economic growth in the new global arena. Perhaps in the past, the world's financial markets did not provide much opportunity for individual actors in the field, but now the scope of these activities has become so wide that it has gone beyond the borders of a few specific countries. It has also made international trade possible and has a direct presence in the important centers of the global stock exchange and has provided the opportunity for trading to everyone. Companies in the financial sector seize this opportunity and take advantage of new business and transaction benefits. One of these companies is Aron Groups, which with several years of experience in the gold market, has now entered the global market using the necessary tools. The company intends to offer the best services with a developing approach and vision. Aron Groups is the first company to offer domestic gold market symbols on the popular and advanced MetaTrader 5 platform. This company, as the first Iranian broker, has introduced the symbols of the Iranian market into the world markets and has made it possible to trade these symbols on a global level. It will also soon expand its profitable business by adding global financial instruments. The company is aware of the need for traders to use global and new trading platforms. It also strives to expand its scope of activity in line with global developments in this field so that all interested parties can have an active presence in the financial markets in a safe environment. Just as the provision and development of trading platforms has led to competition between numerous foreign companies in the field, Aron Groups also facilitates the entry of Iranians into the field by providing quality services worldwide, including a professional trading platform. Iranians make their progress based on knowledge and analytical information. With this new approach, Aron Groups will represent a positive development in improving the path of market participants. In this regard, the company can be a turning point for those interested in entering the capital market.

Leader Awards Imam Ali Officers University With Order of Sacrifice

TEHRAN (MNA) – Leader of the Islamic Revolution has awarded Imam Ali Officers' University with the 'Flag and Order of Sacrifice' for their courage and selfless efforts in defending the country against the enemy's aggression. Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei granted the Flag and Order of Sacrifice to the military academy upon the request of the Iranian Army and the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, for the braveries of the graduates of Imam Ali Officer's University during the eight-year war (1980-1988) that the former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein imposed against Iran. Imam Ali Officers' University is the military academy of the Islamic Republic of Iran Army Ground Forces, located in Tehran.

Enemies Trying to Depict Gov't as Inefficient

TEHRAN (IRNA) - President Hassan Rouhani said the main part of the enemy's war on Tehran is attempting to instill that the Iranian government is effective, distort its capabilities, and deny its successes in order to disappoint people and weaken resistance to the US economic war.

Referring to Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei about the enemies short-term and long-term goals to stop economic progress of Iran, President Rouhani said that the enemy is using sanctions and distortion of realities to pursue its goals of stopping economic progress of Iran, drawing a black picture of its achievements, and instilling disappointment.

Speaking in the 157th meeting of the government's economic coordination board, Rouhani said that the enemy is feeling the defeat more than anyone else, spreading rumors and misinformation, instilling that the government is ineffective, and, most importantly, creating a rift between the officials of the country are actually in line with the goals of the enemy.

He said that the officials need to get united to effectively fight against the psychological war, sanctions and distortions, and added that the honorable people of Iran have always supported the Islamic System and definitely all the achievements and successes have ridden on that support, wisdom, and resistance.

He added that Iran has been under unprecedented pressures over the past two years, but, has managed to reduce dependence on oil income; the government has also managed to provide basic needs of the country and prevent unemployment from getting worse.



President Rouhani said that inaugurating big projects is like a thorn in the eye of the enemy and that they are angry with the people of Iran and try to deny facts like agricultural self-sufficiency and increase in production in different fields.

Referring to the heavy damages inflicted by the coronavirus on the economy of the world, even world powers, President Rouhani said, according to other countries, the Iranian government has to fight wars of the sanctions and coronavirus at the same time, adding that Iran has had eye-catching successes in economy and campaign against coronavirus.

Comparing the decrease in GDPs of Europe (10%) and the US (30%), Iran has shown better resilience, he said.

Envoy Calls for Aerospace Cooperation With China

BEIJING (IRNA)- Iranian Ambassador to China Mohammad Keshavarzadeh in a message reacted to launching BeiDou-3 satellite saying there are various potentials for aerospace cooperation with China.

By launching BeiDou-3 satellite the international coverage and navigation system of the Chinese company was finalized and it put an end to Global Positioning System (GPS) monopoly, Keshavarzadeh wrote in his Twitter account late on Monday.

Elite Iranian aerospace students in China can be a bridge between the two countries in this field, he added.

Over 2,000 Iranian students are studying in China. The BeiDou Navigation Satellite System which is a Chinese satellite navigation system and consists of two separate satellite constellations was officially made operational last week and presented its services to the world.

Iran Export of Products Downs in 4 Months Due to Outbreak

TEHRAN (MNA) – Head of Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPOI) said that country's export volume of products declined in the first four months of the current year (from March 21 to July 22) due to the coronavirus global pandemic.

Hamid Zadboum said, "Like other countries, Iran's export of products decreased in this period due to the outbreak significantly." Turning to the main reasons behind considerable decline of country's exports volume in the first four months of the current year, he said, "Iran's exports were severely affected by the coronavirus pandemic in the first two months of the current year (from March 21 to May 22), so that country could not export its products following the closure of borders."

Currently, two land borders, including Iran's land border with neighboring Turkmenistan, are still closed, he said, adding, "accordingly, reduction of export was completely predictable." Elsewhere in his remarks, the deputy minister of industry put the value of the country's gas export to Turkey in the first three months of the last year at about \$2 billion and added, "this year, no gas was exported to neighboring Turkey this year, so that this issue had an impact on reducing Iran's exports."

Exports of all countries in the world were severely affected by the coronavirus global pandemic, he said, adding, "Even, export of a country like China decreased significantly due to the outbreak." Borders have been reopened in recent months one after another but currently, two of 31 land borders are still closed, he added.

Tehran, Vienna Will Systematically Continue Expanding Ties

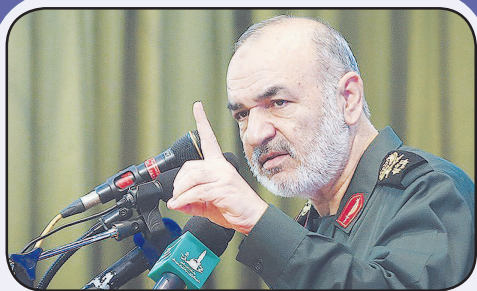
YASOUJ (IRNA) - Austrian Ambassador to Iran Stefan Scholz said on Monday that based on the decision of the Iranian and Austrian authorities, the relations between the two countries will continue in a systematic manner.

Talking to IRNA while touring Kohgiluyeh-Boyerahmad province, he hailed the two countries' close ties, saying that the main purpose of this trip is to get acquainted with the capacities of the province to be able to help boost bilateral relations.

The situation in Iran has become complicated, and in fact the cruel sanctions of the US and coronavirus have caused problems for the countries, he said.

There are many natural and climatic similarities between Austria and Kohgiluyeh-Boyerahmad province, and the western Iranian province has been successful in terms of environment, forest and resource management, he said.

Iran Craving Revenge for Gen. Soleimani's Blood



TEHRAN (Tasnim) – The Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps said taking revenge on the assassins of Lt. General Qassem Soleimani has become an aspiration of Iran.

In remarks at the opening of an exhibition in Tehran on Tuesday Major General Hossein Salami said the enemies hold the mistaken belief that martyrdom of great Iranian figures would halt the Islamic Revolution's progress.

"Martyrdom is the driving engine of the resistance's power and defense of the great Iranian nation and other Muslim nations," he said.

The commander added that the bright path initiated by General Soleimani continues to develop more rapidly after his martyrdom. "Revenge for the blood of martyr Soleimani has become an aspiration. We move ahead with aspirations."

The IRGC commander said Iran will not only take revenge for the American assassination of Lt. General Soleimani but also will accomplish the mission to liberate al-Quds (Jerusalem) and expel the enemies of Islam from Muslim countries.

In a meeting with Iraq's prime minister in July Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei warned the United States that Iran will definitely reciprocate the assassination of Lt. General Soleimani.

Tehran to Set Up Parliamentary Friendship Group With Ankara

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Majlis Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf in a telephone conversation with his Turkish counterpart Mustafa Sentop said that Iran's parliament is determined to set up a friendship group with Turkey at the earliest and promote mutual cooperation.

Highlighting the significance of developing economic exchanges between Iran and Turkey and removing obstacles caused by the coronavirus epidemic, he said, "The coronavirus has caused a decline in economic exchanges between the two countries, but it is possible to further promote trade relations by upholding health protocols."

Referring to the capabilities of medical staff in Iran, Qalibaf added, "Despite the inhumane US sanctions, we have successfully operationalized medical and health programs and gained valuable experience in this field."

Welcoming the strengthening of all-out cooperation with Turkey, he hoped that bilateral relations would enhance in international and regional forums, and in particular, cooperation between the two countries in the form of the Astana Summit would continue. Sentop, for his part, congratulated the speaker of Iran's parliament on Eid al-Adha, saying, "With the blessing of this great Eid, we will witness the eradication of the coronavirus from all over the world."

Referring to the need to develop all-out relations between Iran and Turkey, he said, "Neighborliness, cultural affinity and humanitarian relations between the peoples necessitate promoting ties to higher levels, as the presidents of the two countries are in close contact in this regard." Referring to the U.S. cruel sanctions, he said that the U.S. has expanded the scope of its oppressive sanctions against some countries, especially the Islamic Republic of Iran. Turkey opposes these sanctions and it has stated this in all international forums.

Terrorists Unable to Endanger Iran Security

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Terrorists and their supporters were in vain to pose major threat to Iran's security through dominating Iraq and Syria, Chief of staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri said on Tuesday.

Enemies' defeat brought national tranquility to let the country move towards development, General Baqeri said at an exhibition showcasing the power of Resistance front and the end of Daesh (ISIS).

Bravery and presence of late Lt General Qasem Soleimani and his comrades did not let Daesh be in Iraq and Syria, Baqeri noted.

Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Qods Force commander Lieutenant General Soleimani and the acting commander of the Iraqi Popular Mobilization Units (PMU) - known as the Hash al-Shaabi - Abu Mahdi Al-Mohandes, were separately leaving Baghdad airport in



two cars were targeted in US terrorist attack in January, 2020.

About the exhibition, General Baqeri said it puts on display parts of efforts taken by Resistance and also Islamic Republic's support to fight plots of the global arrogance, regional enemies and terrorist groups.

It also showcases brutality of the terrorist groups to endanger security of the regional nations, the general added.

Today, security is returned to Iraq and Syria at high amount thanks to martyrdom and efforts of General Soleimani and his comrades and the guidelines of the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Baqeri noted.

The exhibition also shows pictures of Lebanon's 2006 victory in its 33-day war against the Zionist regime and the Palestinian nation's resistance to the occupying regime, General Baqeri said stressing it can be useful for the young generation.

Miscalculations by Superpowers Led to Disastrous Consequences

TEHRAN (IRNA)- Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on Monday said in a virtual lecture that miscalculations carried out by superpowers have led to the disastrous consequences in the world.

He delivered a live lecture named "Characteristics of Transitional Period" through the Instagram social networking service, adding that the miscalculations committed in the process of a new global order, are far more catastrophic than the mistakes that other countries have made.

Referring to the U.S. invasion to Iraq as one of the superpowers' miscalculations, he stated that once the attack was conducted, there was a lot of ambiguity about it but one thing was very clear; that from the very beginning it was obvious that the move would lead to the growth of extremism in the world.

Extremism has been caused by miscalculations, he said, adding that the major problem that has led to the current sad situation is the lack of understanding and the miscalculation that has led to the mistakes of the regional powers and superpowers. "We have been experiencing the era for 30 years," the top diplomat said, noting that "we should not predict the time when it will end. It is a long period. The Cold War era lasted about 50 years."

Zarif named "intense competition" as one of the characteristics of the Transitional Period, adding that the competitions have short-term as well as medium-term objectives.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the high-ranking official pointed out that "we cannot have simple presumptions of the facts". He went on to note that the presumptions and inflexible thoughts could lead to disasters.

Majlis Urged to Approve Long-Term Contract Between Iran, China

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli said that the legal process of a 25-year contract between Iran and China will be determined, and parliament must also approve it.

Rahmani Fazli in the 50th meeting of the Economic Information Coordination Headquarters added that the contract between Iran and China is a preliminary agreement that first the axes of cooperation will be determined, and then it must be completed too.

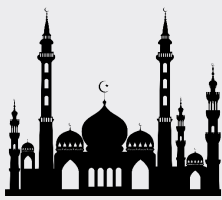
Referring to the long-term contract between Iran and China, Interior Minister stated that opposition media released fake news such as the assignment of Iranian islands and the sale of some areas and oil wells.

He called on the local media to try more to inform the public.

Amid coronavirus outbreak that it has had an impact on economic issues and people's livelihood, the government must support the people.

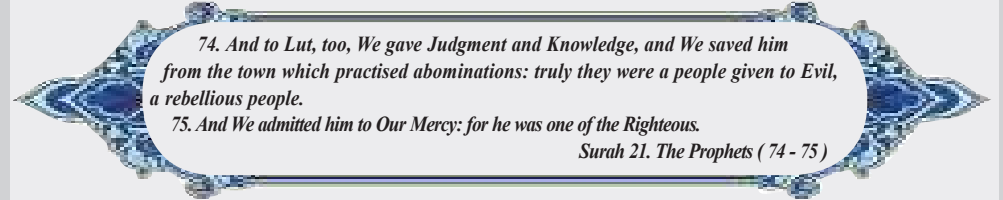
The minister referred to the Leader's remarks regarding the fact that we must create hope, trust, and encourage production to get through these special-economic conditions safely.

The price monitoring was another issue that was strengthened by the formation of a monitoring working group, the minister concluded.



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	13:10
■ Evening (Maghreb)	20:24
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:41
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:16



Gas Production To Touch 300 bcm By Yearend

TEHRAN – Managing Director of National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) Hassan Montazer Torbati says by the yearend the total gas production in the country will reach 300 billion cubic meters, adding that 900 project of gas supply to rural areas will be inaugurated till the Government Week.

Speaking on the sidelines of inauguration of some gas-supply projects in Khorasan Razavi Province which was held online, Mr. Montazer Torbati highlighted the latest projects of the company regarding the development of gas supply in the urban and rural areas, saying that by the yearend and through a two-stage plan, the executive operation for gas supply to 2,000 new villages would start.

He pointed to the amendment of some laws which facilitated gas supply to the urban and rural areas and to the production and industrial units.

He added that this amendment helped the company to accelerate fuel consumption pattern in the cities and gas supply in the villages.

He then pointed to the brilliant record of the company since its foundation, adding that due to efforts made in developing South Pars, the company has increased the gas production, and gas supply to the urban and rural areas and



finally to the industrial units has enhanced.

He noted that due to the actions taken after the amendment in the law, some \$10b of wasted fuel turned into money and currently the country earns some 3 to 3.5 billion dollars annually for it while the total cost of developing this project was around \$4.3b.

Montazer Torbati added that in recent years some 136,000b tomans has been invested in the developmental projects which are unique and currently 900 villages are ready to join the gas-supplying network which will happen by till the beginning of the Government Week.

He also pointed to the beginning of the executive operation for construction of transfer pipeline of 48-inch Parchin-Sang Bast of Mashhad which will be 85 kilometers in length and it will cost 600b tomans.

Iran Exports to Greece Falls by 70%

TEHRAN (ILNA) - During the first quarter of the current year, Iran's exports to Greece reached to \$ 1.7 million which has decreased by nearly 70% an official said.

The Secretary-General and member of the board of directors of Iran-Greece Joint Chamber of Commerce Majid Movafeg Qadiri said that Iran's exports to Greece in the first quarter of 2019 were about \$ 5.3 million; adding "Of course, this amount is very different compared to the first quarter of 2018 because during this period we exported more than \$ 670 million to Greece."

He confirmed that in the first quarter of 2020, Iran's imports from Greece worth \$ 2.7 million, a decrease of 60% compared to a similar period last year.

"The decline in trade relations between the two countries dates back to before of the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on international trade and shows that sanctions have affected Iran's exports more than imports," he added.



Implementing Digital Project Is a Must for Future of MSC

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – The CEO of Mobarakeh Steel Company, during the ceremony for unveiling the digital development project of the company, highlighted the significance of implementing the plan in the company and, in general, in the national industries.

Eng. Hamid Reza Azimian said that implementation of digital development project in the MSC is not a mere imaginary project but it is a must and a vital necessity which guarantees the future of the company in the international competition scene. He added therefore the company is pioneer in import of the fourth generation of technology into the country, and by employing successfully the technology in the company, MSC is definitely ready for transfer of knowhow and experience of the fourth generation of technology and industrial revolution to other industries.

He added implementation of the fourth generation of the technology will lead to the increase in the productivity and it will create the ground for 6 to 8 percent rise in the dividends of share-holders.

Azimian added, "We are currently active in a world totally competitive. Share-holders of the company expect the company to protect the value of their shares and increase their capital day by day in the current market with protecting the rights. And this is only possible if we implement the fourth generation of technology and industrial revolution in MSC concurrent with developments in the world."

He said in the first stage, the company is to dispatch its managers and experts to Tehran University or Isfahan University of Technology for training and preparing the ground for implementation of the project.

Azimian reiterated that MSC is to become a member of WEF's lighthouse network like Tata Steel and South Korea's Posco and to reach high level of productivity.

He further said receiving valuable awards like European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM) or top science-based company with scoring over 600 points was a difficult task that MSC did it and becoming a member of the club is achievable but it needs a collective determination of the staff and management of the company.



Turkey Limits Entrance of Iranian Trucks

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - A spokesman for Iran's customs administration said that the reason for the heavy traffic of Iranian trucks at the Bazargan border is that Turkey accepts only about 150 trucks a day from the Bazargan border and other borders between Iran and Turkey are not allowed for trucks.

"Yesterday, 96 export trucks and 59 transit trucks entered Turkey from the Bazargan border," Rouhollah Latifi said.

"In turn, 190 trucks imported goods from Turkey in addition to 82 transit trucks which entered into our country from Turkey through the Bazargan border," Latifi added.

He said that 350 trucks have also got permission to leave the country, but have not yet left the Bazargan border for Turkey.

"Previously, trucks were also accepted from the Sarv border, but now this border is only for passengers," he added.

According to the latest foreign trade report, Iran's exports to Turkey in the first four months of the current Iranian year (started on March 20) decreased by about 90 percent, while the decline in imports from Turkey is below one percent.

During the first four months of the current Iranian year (started on March 20, 2020), Iran imported 1.870 million tons of goods worth \$1.178 billion from Turkey, which accounted for 11 percent of the total country's imports, while the exports to Turkey amounted to 842,000 tons worth \$450 million, Iranian media reported.

According to the statistics, Iran sees a 90-percent decrease in exports to Turkey in terms of weight and 82 percent in terms of value.

Petrochemical Output Capacity to Rise up by 4m Tons

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Managing Director of National Petrochemical Company of Iran says that the country will witness four million tons of increase in petrochemical output capacity with inauguration of three important projects on Thursday.

Behzad Mohammadi told IRNA on Tuesday that President Hassan Rouhani is to open three big petrochemical projects on Thursday. The projects with investment of 1.57 billion dollars include Kimia Pars Middle East, Kaveh and Lorestan Catalyst, he said.

Among total 27 petrochemical projects planned to be inaugurated by the next two years, some 17 plants will open till the end of the current Iranian year on March 20, Mohammadi said. With opening 17 plants, industrial capacity in the country will reach from 66 million tons to 90; and the figure will be 100 million tons earning some 25 billion dollars income at the end of the next Iranian year, Mohammadi added.

Elaborating on petrochemical projects to open on Thursday, the official said Kaveh Methanol is the biggest in the world.

About the projects, Iranian Minister of Petroleum Bijan Zangeneh has said "Kimia Pars Middle East with a daily production capacity of 5,000 tons of methanol, Kaveh Plant with a daily production capacity of 7,000 tons of methanol and Lorestan Catalyst Plant will be inaugurated this week." Despite the U.S. maximum pressure and highest level of sanctions on Iran's industry and oil exports, the country's petrochemical industry continued its development activities.

ESCO With Modern Technology To Provide Country With Rails



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

ISFAHAN – Isfahan constituency representative to Majlis Dr. Mehdi Toghyani during his visit to Esfahan Steel Company (ESCO) hailed human resources of the company and termed it an important asset in the national steel industry.

Dr. Toghyani said this huge industrial complex, despite assumption of some people who think the complex lacks modern technology, in most of its parts enjoys having modern technology and one can see its sign in the rail production unit of the company.

He said this unit uses modern equipment in its rail testing section and ultimately, the quality of produced rails by the company are in the international standards and fortunately this product is used in different parts of the national railways system.

On the sidelines of his visit of blast furnace, steel-making and rail production units of ESCO, Dr. Toghyani who is also spokesman to the economic committee of Majlis said that ESCO has had good investments for producing steel and products needed by the country like rails and this is an important move in the national industry.

He also said the current fluctuations in the prices of steel products are due to inappropriate presentation of the products by some small and private companies.

He then highlighted some problems in the steel industry and offering the products in the market. He reiterated all representatives of Isfahan Province are working hard to resolve the problems of steel-makers in the country like ESCO which is the jewel of the industry, expressing hope that by resolving the problems, the country would witness dynamism and development of ESCO more than before.

State Printing Office of Iran (SPOI)

Tender of purchasing 384 Kg types of Pantone inks

Tender NO : 2099001065000029

State printing office of Iran intends to purchase the aforementioned inks through a public tender. Therefore ,participants in the tender should first receive their tender documents from Aug. 1-2020 to 12:00 hours on Aug.6-2020 in the Governmental portal address at : www.setadiran.ir and after register needed documents in mentioned address, physically submit envelopes A,B and C to the secretariat of the company before the end of administrative hour(12:00 PM) on Aug. 18-2020.Tender documents presented after the stated deadline will not be accepted.

The guaranteed amount for participating in the tender is 875/000/000 Rials(3550 EURO) and should be presented in the form of a bank guarantee in envelope A.

All stages of bid , including receiving tender documents ,submitting price proposal of tenders and opening the envelopes ,will be done through the portal of Government's electronic procurement system at the following address : www.setadiran.ir.

It is necessary that tenders , if not taken membership previously , should carry out the registration stages in the mentioned website and receive the signed and sealed electronic certificate for participating in the tender. For more information , please contact the governmental portal phone numbers at 41934 ,registration office Tel: 88969737 and 85193768.Envelopes opening date is on Wednesday Aug.19-2020 at 10:00 AM in Transactions Commission Room of State Printing Office of Iran.

Meanwhile ,the cost for publishing the advertisement shall be borne by the tender winner.

Address : State Printing Office of Iran, No: 29,Next to Khayyam Park, Igbal Lahouri St., Imam Husein Square,Tehran, Iran,Postal code : 1714744153,Tel : 33349079

Lebanese FM Quits Over Slow Reforms

BEIRUT (Reuters) - Lebanon named the president's diplomatic adviser as new foreign minister on Monday after Nassif Hitti quit the post, blaming a lack of political will to enact reforms to halt a financial meltdown which he warned could turn Lebanon into a failed state.

Foreign donors have made clear there will be no aid until Beirut makes changes to tackle state waste and corruption, which are behind the crisis that is the biggest threat to Lebanon's stability since a 1975-1990 civil war.

"Will this cry of deep frustration move Lebanon to finally work on reforms, on measures taking care of the Lebanese, sinking every day deeper into poverty and desperation?" tweeted United Nations special coordinator for Lebanon, Jan Kubis.



Japan Set to Mark 75 Years Since Hiroshima, Nagasaki Atomic Bombing

TOKYO (Reuters) - Thursday marks 75 years since the United States unleashed the world's first atomic bomb attack on the city of Hiroshima, followed three days later by the second and last on Nagasaki, vapourising lives, buildings and Japan's capacity for war.

At 8:15 a.m. on Aug. 6 (2315 GMT, Aug. 5) 1945, U.S. B-29 warplane Enola Gay dropped a bomb nicknamed "Little Boy" and obliterated the southwestern city of Hiroshima, killing 140,000 of an estimated population of 350,000, with thousands more dying later of injuries and radiation-related illness. On Aug. 9, the United States dropped another bomb, dubbed "Fat Man", about 420 kilometres (261 miles) to the south over Nagasaki, instantly killing more than 75,000 people beneath a mushroom cloud which grew as high as 9,000 metres (30,000 feet).



Spain's King Juan Carlos Flees Under Weight of Scandal



MADRID (AFP) - Juan Carlos I led Spain to democracy and foiled a military coup, but he heads into exile under a cloud of royal corruption that has ruined his legacy.

He abdicated in 2014 after playing a determining role in Spain's modern history, stepping up as the first crowned head of state in 44 years after the death of General Francisco Franco.

He took the throne within days of Franco's death in November 1975, having been named successor by the dictator himself, who passed over Juan Carlos's father, Juan de Borbon. "Faithful to the political desire of my father... I wanted to be king for all Spaniards," Juan Carlos said in his abdication address, recalling the day of his proclamation.

He was popular for decades, however, on Monday the former head state admitted to his son King Felipe VI it was better he left the country. "Guided by the conviction to best serve the people of Spain, its institutions, and you as king, I inform you of my decision at this time to go into exile outside Spain," Juan Carlos wrote.

Facing investigation at home and abroad for corruption, he had become an embarrassment to the throne and the government.

Felipe had accepted the decision, the royal palace said, following a Supreme Court decision in June to open an investigation.

Suspicion focuses on \$100 million (85 million euros) alleged to have been paid secretly into a Swiss bank account in 2008 by Saudi Arabia.

Felipe has tried to distance himself from the allegations of a huge hidden fortune, withdrawing his father's annual royal allowance and renouncing his inheritance.

Yet it was Juan Carlos who had defied the Francoists by ushering in a new system of parliamentary monarchy. A new constitution was passed by referendum in 1978.

He was credited with helping to defuse an attempted coup in February 1981 by soldiers who stormed into parliament shooting and who held lawmakers hostage for several hours.

The king's appearance on television urging support for the democratic government was instrumental in blocking the attempt.

"I knew the soldiers were going to agree because I had been named by Franco" and was their commander-in-chief, he said later. He knew most of the officers from his military training.

Although his blocking of the coup helped endear him to the nation, the king's image suffered in later years.

The country had long closed its eyes to the numerous affairs the action-man king could boast.

But his decline began in 2012, when as a keen sportsman and hunter, he accepted a luxury elephant-hunting trip to Botswana, paid for by a Saudi entrepreneur, during a tough recession at home.

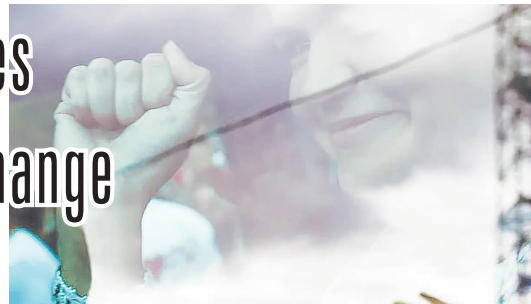
Belarus Opposition Rallies Voters With Promise of Change

MALADZIECHNA (AFP) - At a small-town campaign rally held by the rising star of Belarus's political opposition, Elena stood among the unusually large crowd, wrapped in a red and white flag -- the colors of the ex-Soviet country's emboldened opposition.

Like many others at the gathering for opposition candidate Svetlana Tikhonovskaya, she preferred to give her first name only, for fear of drawing unwanted attention from the authorities. "I want to have freedom of expression. To go out on the street and speak freely and not be afraid anymore," the 42-year-old bread factory worker told AFP.

Several thousand people filled a small stadium in Maladziechna, a city of some 100,000 people northwest of the capital Minsk, to listen to Tikhonovskaya -- who has emerged as the leading opponent to strongman Alexander Lukashenko.

The crowd, packed with young people born after the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union and with no memory of the pre-Lukashenko era, waved flags and chanted "change" as 37-year-old Tikhonovskaya took to the stage in late July.



N. Korea Has Probably Developed Nuclear Devices to Fit Ballistic Missiles

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters) - North Korea is pressing on with its nuclear weapons program and several countries believe it has "probably developed miniaturized nuclear devices to fit into the warheads of its ballistic missiles," according to a confidential U.N. report.

The report by an independent panel of experts monitoring U.N. sanctions said the countries, which it did not identify, believed North Korea's past six nuclear tests had likely helped it develop miniaturized nuclear devices. Pyongyang has not conducted a nuclear test since September 2017. The interim report, seen by Reuters, was submitted to the 15-member U.N. Security Council North Korea sanctions committee on Monday.

"The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is continuing its nuclear program, including the production of highly enriched uranium and construction of an experimental light water reactor. A Member State assessed that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is continuing production of nuclear weapons," the report said. North Korea is formally known as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). North Korea's mission to the United Nations in New York did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the U.N. report.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said last week there would be no more war as the country's nuclear weapons guarantee its safety and future despite unabated outside pressure and military threats. The U.N. report said one country, which it did not identify, assessed that North Korea "may seek to further develop miniaturisation in order to allow incorporation of technological improvements such as penetration aid packages or, potentially, to develop multiple warhead systems." North Korea has been subjected to U.N. sanctions since 2006 over its nuclear and ballistic missile programs. While the Security Council has steadily strengthened sanctions in a bid to cut off funding for those programs.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and U.S. President Donald Trump have met three times since 2018, but failed to make progress on U.S. calls for Pyongyang to give up its nuclear weapons and North Korea's demands for an end to sanctions.

In May 2018 North Korea followed through on a pledge to blow up tunnels at its main nuclear test site, Punggye-ri, which Pyongyang said was proof of its commitment to end nuclear testing. But they did not allow experts to witness the dismantlement of the site.

The U.N. report said that as only tunnel entrances were known to have been destroyed and there is no indication of a comprehensive demolition, one country had assessed that North Korea could rebuild and reinstall within three months the infrastructure needed to support a nuclear test.

Thai Protesters Openly Criticize Monarchy

BANGKOK (Reuters) - Speakers at a Thai anti-government protest demanded reforms to the monarchy of King Maha Vajiralongkorn on Monday, calling for its powers to be curbed in unusually frank public comments.

Defaming the monarchy is punishable by up to 15 years in prison under Thailand's 'lese majeste' laws. Police did not stop the six speakers, but said that any suspected offences would be investigated.

Many of the 200 protesters were dressed like the fictional wizard Harry Potter and other characters in what they said was a reference to vanquishing injustices under the military-backed government.

Lawyer Anon Nampa, 34, accused the palace of taking on increasing powers that undermined democracy and of inaction in the face of attacks on opponents of the government of Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, a former junta leader.

After the king took the throne in 2016, the palace required revisions to a new constitution that gave him greater emergency powers. He has since taken personal control over some army units and palace assets worth tens of billions of dollars.

Meanwhile, some Thai activists complain of harassment by authorities, saying that at least nine opposition figures living abroad have disappeared.

Two were later found dead. Reuters has not independently confirmed what happened to these opposition figures. "Talking about this is not an act to topple the monarchy, but to allow the monarchy to exist in Thai society in the right way and legitimately under a democratic and a constitutional monarchy," Anon told the group of around 200 at Bangkok's Democracy Monument.

Two student groups then read out demands that started with: "Cancelling and reforming the laws that expand the power of the monarch and that could impinge on democracy where the king is the head of state."

The Royal Palace did not answer phone calls on Monday seeking comment on the criticism. Deputy government spokeswoman Ratchada Thanadirek said it was up to police whether to act against the protesters "The government wants the young protesters to observe the laws so that they can continue to exercise their rights to make their demands and the country can stay peaceful," she said.

The students from Mahanakorn and Kasat universities also called on the authorities to listen to the protesters and to reform the 'lese majeste' laws that ban criticism of the monarchy. Student protests to demand the resignation of Prayuth's government and a new constitution now happen almost daily. While some placards have made veiled criticism of the monarchy, this is the first time it has been open.



India Imposes Curfew in Kashmir Ahead of Clampdown Anniversary

SRINAGAR (AFP) - A curfew has been imposed across Indian Kashmir just two days before the first anniversary of New Delhi's abolition of the restive region's semi-autonomy, officials said late Monday, citing intelligence reports of looming protests.

"These restrictions shall come into force with immediate effect and shall remain in force on 4th and 5th August," stated the government order issued for the main city of Srinagar.

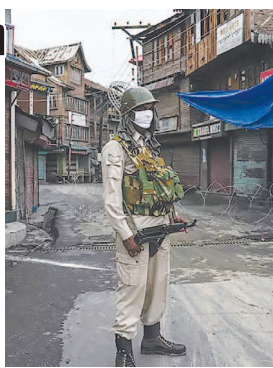
"Full curfew will be enforced in all Kashmir districts," a senior police officer, who asked to remain anonymous, told AFP.

A "full curfew" means people can only move around with an official pass, usually reserved for essential services like police and medical professionals.

The Himalayan region is already subject to restrictions to reduce the spread of the novel coronavirus amid a jump in infections, with most economic activities limited and public movement curtailed.

The order said the separate virus lockdown would be extended until August 8.

Police vehicles fitted with megaphones patrolled Srinagar after dark, with officers ordering residents to remain indoors for the next two days.



Zaferanieh Apt (\$2500)
250sq.m, 3bdrs
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J, balcony
marble fl
Fully Furn

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

Shanon (adviser)

Parsian

Fereshteh Apt (\$3000)
270sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p, S, J, balcony, gym, green yard, F.F

Farmanieh (\$1800) 180sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p, S, J, pkg, & F.F
Gheitarieh (\$2200) 240sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p, S, J, pkg, & F.F

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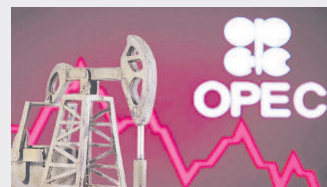
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Russia Is Raising Oil Output as OPEC+ Cuts Ease

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russian oil and gas condensate output increased to 9.8 million barrels per day (bpd) on Aug. 1-2 from 9.37 million bpd in July as the country eases production curbs under an OPEC+ deal, a source familiar with data said on Monday.

The Energy Ministry declined to comment on the data.

OPEC+ producers - which include members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies such as Russia - from Aug. 1 have agreed to slim their output cuts to 7.7 million barrels per day (bpd) from 9.7 million bpd.




Microsoft Talks to Buy TikTok's U.S. Operations Spark Ire in China

BEIJING (Reuters) - A potential shotgun wedding to Microsoft Corp for TikTok's U.S. operations provoked an outcry on Monday on Chinese social media as well as criticism from a prominent Chinese investor in TikTok owner ByteDance.

The U.S. tech giant formally declared its interest on Sunday after President Donald Trump, who has cited national security risks posed by the Chinese-owned short video app, reversed course on a planned ban and gave the two firms 45 days to come to a deal.

The proposed acquisition of parts of TikTok, which boasts 100 million U.S. users, would offer Microsoft a rare opportunity to become a major competitor to social media giants such as Facebook Inc (FB.O) and Snap Inc.

Shares in Microsoft, which owns the business social media network LinkedIn and is also seeking to buy TikTok's Canadian, Australian and New Zealand interests, rose nearly 3% in early trades on Monday.

ByteDance has not publicly confirmed the sale talks. But in an internal letter to staff on Monday seen by Reuters, the company's founder and CEO Zhang Yiming said the firm had started talks with a tech company it did not identify to clear the way "for us to continue offering the TikTok app in the U.S."

Clinching a deal that will satisfy all parties and potentially act as a lightning rod for U.S.-China relations will be a tall order.

People close to the situation have told Reuters that all of TikTok could be worth \$50 billion, but the forced sale of the U.S. division and some other units alone will likely yield much less than that. "A forced deal under Washington's shotgun could open up for endless litigations if it should result (in) an unfavorable outcome to existing private shareholders," said Fred Hu, chairman of Primavera Capital Group, an investor in ByteDance and one of China's best known private equity groups.

Hu said Microsoft was a credible buyer but questioned how selling large parts of TikTok's operations at such an early stage of its growth could ever be a good deal for ByteDance.

"It absolutely makes no sense. Bytedance is an innocent victim of the mad politics and mad geopolitics. It is a sad outcome for Bytedance, for entrepreneurial capitalism, and for the future of global commerce," he said.

Tech bankers in Asia said investment banks working on the deal would have to be careful not to antagonize Trump.

"This is not a standard M&A situation...this is hard to predict," said one senior banker with a U.S. bank in Hong Kong, saying that it would be a question of how to structure a deal in a way that would keep Washington happy.

Zhang's letter to staff also said ByteDance did not agree with the stance taken by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS), which scrutinizes deals for national security risks, that it must fully divest TikTok's U.S. operations.

"We disagree with this CFIUS conclusion," the letter said but added: "...we understand the decision in the current macro environment."

ByteDance did not respond to Reuters requests for comment.

The Chinese government declined to comment specifically on the Washington's move to force a sale of TikTok's U.S. operations.

The United States has been "stretching the concept of national security", presuming that companies are guilty without evidence, China's foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a briefing after being asked about U.S. actions against Chinese software companies.

The topic "ByteDance has agreed to divest TikTok's U.S. operations" was one of the most discussed subjects on China's Twitter-like Weibo platform on Monday, with over 920 million views. Some commentators criticized ByteDance, saying it has not shown as much backbone as Huawei Technologies, also in the crosshairs of U.S.-China tensions and now on a U.S. trade blacklist.

"(ByteDance) kneeled down so fast that it didn't even wait for the Chinese government to retaliate," said one comment that was 'liked' over 5,000 times.

While TikTok is ByteDance's most well known app globally, the company makes the bulk of its revenue from advertising on Chinese apps including Douyin - a Chinese version of TikTok - and news aggregator app Jinri Toutiao.

Bed Occupancy Rates for Coronavirus Patients Rise Across Japan

TOKYO (Dispatches) - The percentage of occupied hospital beds reserved for coronavirus patients rose in 39 of Japan's 47 prefectures in the week ended July 29, with bed occupancy rates over 30 percent in eight prefectures, government data showed Monday, raising fears the medical system may soon become overwhelmed amid a resurgence of infections.

The study by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare found that the number of occupied beds across the country stood at 4,034 as of July 29, increasing by 1,290 from the week prior.

The recent growing strain on the country's health care system comes as a time the government remains cautious about putting stricter restrictions on economic activities.

By prefecture, Osaka led the pack with 42.5 percent of its beds reserved for COVID-19 patients occupied. It was followed by Saitama at 40.4 percent, Aichi at 39 percent and Tokyo at 37.9 percent.



The remarks came as the government struggles to balance the need to reopen the economy while keeping the spread of the coronavirus in check.

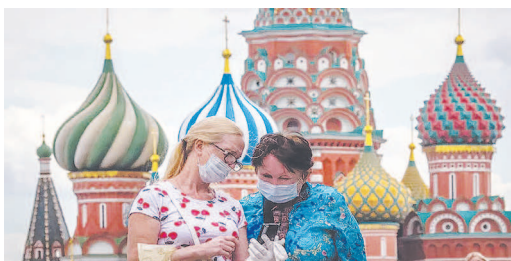
Japan has seen more than 39,000 cases of coronavirus infections as of Sunday, including 712 from the Diamond Princess cruise ship that was quarantined in Yokohama in February. The tally has been increasing by a thousand or more every day since Wednesday.

Russia Aims to Produce Millions of Virus Doses by 2021

MOSCOW (AFP) - Russia said Monday it aims to launch mass production of a coronavirus vaccine next month and turn out "several million" doses per month by next year.

The country is pushing ahead with several vaccine prototypes and one trialled by the Gamaleya institute in Moscow has reached advanced stages of development and is about to pass state registration, officials said.

"We are very much counting on starting mass production in September," Industry Minister Denis Manturov said in an interview published by state news agency TASS.



"We will be able to ensure production volumes of several hundred thousand a month, with an eventual increase to several million by the start of next year," he said, adding that one developer is preparing production technology at three

locations in central Russia.

The head of the Russian Direct Investment Fund, which finances the trials, said he expects official registration of the vaccine to be complete "within ten days."

"If this happens in the next ten days, we will be ahead not just of the United States but other countries too, it will be the first registered coronavirus vaccine," RDIF chief Kirill Dmitriev said in televised remarks.

Another vaccine, developed by Siberia-based Vektor lab, is currently undergoing clinical trials and two more will begin human testing within the next two months, Health Minister Mikhail Murashko said on Saturday.

Gamaleya's vaccine is a so-called viral vector vaccine, meaning it employs another virus to carry the DNA encoding the needed immune response into cells.

Gamaleya's vaccine is based on the adenovirus, a similar technology to the coronavirus vaccine prototype developed by China's CanSino, currently in the advanced stage of clinical trials.

North Korea's Economy Grows First Time in 3 Years

SEOUL (Dispatches) - North Korea's economy grew for the first time in three years in 2019 as better weather conditions boosted crops, but sanctions imposed to stop its nuclear ambitions kept manufacturing weak, according to South Korea's central bank.

The secretive country's gross domestic product (GDP) last year rose 0.4 percent compared with the previous year when the economy suffered the biggest contraction in 21 years as a result of drought and sanctions, the Bank of Korea (BOK) said.

The North does not publish economic data of its own, and the South Korean central bank numbers are considered the most authoritative.

North Korea has been under United Nations sanctions since 2006 over its ballistic missile and nuclear programs and the UN Security Council has tightened measures in recent years.

"The sanctions have not become any tougher since 2017-end and weather conditions have been more favorable, which helped output from the agriculture sector to improve," a BOK official said. Construction also turned positive last year, the BOK said, as did the forestry and fishing sector, while the contraction in mining and manufacturing narrowed.

The North is banned from exporting coal, iron and lead as a result of sanctions imposed in 2017. Trade in textiles, once a key export, is banned in both directions.

Nonetheless, total exports rose by 14.4 percent to \$280m in 2019, according to the BOK, with the biggest increases in clocks and watches, along with footwear, hats and wigs.



Gen. Soliemani Defeated Enemy Plans in Region

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iranian Minister of Defense said “Despite the plans of the enemy for institutionalizing insecurity in the region, fortunately, efforts of the Resistance Axis forces under the command of General Soleimani defeated the plans.”

Speaking in the inauguration ceremony of Resistance

Panorama Museum of Martyr Gen. Soleimani on Tuesday, Brigadier General Amir Hatami said, “In this museum, we will get acquainted with two issues of malice and vicious crimes of the enemies, which shows that they had big plans for institutionalizing insecurity in the region for decades and hundreds of years.”



WHO Warns There May Never Be a COVID-19 Silver Bullet

GENEVA (AFP) - The World Health Organization warned Monday that there might never be a “silver bullet” for the new coronavirus, despite the rush to discover effective vaccines.

The WHO urged governments and citizens to focus on doing the known basics, such as testing, contact tracing, maintaining physical distance and wearing a mask in order to suppress the pandemic, which has upended normal life around the globe and triggered a devastating economic crisis.

“We all hope to have a number of effective vaccines that can help prevent people from infection,” WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a virtual press conference.

“However, there’s no silver bullet at the moment -- and there might never be. “For now, stopping outbreaks comes down to the basics of public health and disease control. “Do it all,” he urged.

The novel coronavirus has killed nearly 690,000 people and infected at least 18.1 million since the outbreak emerged in Wuhan in China last December, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP.

The WHO began pressing China in early May to invite in its experts to help investigate the animal origins of COVID-19.

The UN health agency sent an epidemiologist and an animal health specialist to Beijing on July 10 to lay the groundwork for a probe aimed at identifying how the virus entered the human species.

Their scoping mission is now complete, said Tedros. “The WHO advance team that travelled to China has now concluded their mission to lay the groundwork for further joint efforts to identify the virus origins,” he said. “WHO and Chinese experts have drafted the terms of reference for the studies and programme of work for an international team, led by WHO. “The international team will include leading scientists and researchers from



China and around the world. “Epidemiological studies will begin in Wuhan to identify the potential source of infection of the early cases. “Evidence and hypotheses generated through this work will lay the ground for further, longer-term studies.” The pair have not yet returned to the WHO’s Geneva headquarters for a debriefing. Scientists believe the killer virus jumped from animals to humans, possibly from a market in the city of Wuhan selling exotic animals for meat. Chinese officials said early in the outbreak that the virus may have spread from a market in the city, which sold live and wild animals, but no further confirmation of that has been revealed.

Euro Zone Factory Activity Bounced Back To Growth in July

LONDON (Reuters) - Manufacturing activity across the euro zone expanded for the first time since early 2019 last month as demand rebounded after more easing of the restrictions imposed to quell the spread of the new coronavirus, a survey showed on Monday.

Just over 18 million people have been infected by the coronavirus. But governments around Europe have eased some restrictions that had shuttered vast swathes of the bloc’s economy.

To offer support to the ravaged economy, the European Central Bank has ramped up its stimulus measures and European Union leaders have agreed on a 750 billion euro (674.62 billion pounds) recovery fund.

Still, the economy contracted a record 12.1% last quarter, official data showed on Friday, although a July Reuters poll predicted 8.1% growth this quarter.

Factories appear to be playing their part in the recovery. IHS Markit’s final Manufacturing Purchasing Managers’ Index bounced to 51.8 in July from June’s 47.4 - its first time above the 50 mark that separates growth from contraction since January 2019. An initial “flash” release had it at 51.1.

An index measuring output which feeds into a composite PMI due on Wednesday leapt to 55.3 from 48.9, its highest since April 2018.

“Euro zone factories reported a very positive start to the third quarter, with production growing at the fastest rate for over two years, fuelled by an encouraging surge in demand,” said Chris Williamson, chief business economist at IHS Markit.

“Growth of new orders in fact outpaced production, hinting strongly that August should see further output gains.”

Forward looking indicators in the survey were generally more positive, but policymakers are likely to be concerned that factories again reduced headcount - and at one of the sharpest rates in the survey’s 23-year history. The employment index only nudged up to 42.9 from 41.3.

“The job numbers remain a major concern, however, especially as the labour market is likely to be key to determining the economy’s recovery path,” Williamson said.

97% of Iran’s Needed Medicine Produced Domestically

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Currently, 97% of Iran’s required drugs are produced inside the country and it has significant capabilities in drug production, formulation, pharmaceutical knowledge and even supplying domestic raw materials.

Head of Food and Drug Administration of Iran Mohammad Reza Shanehsaz said in the meeting held today (on Tuesday) in the presence of some Iranian lawmakers that the need for the country’s pharmaceutical imports is about 3 percent of the drug’s consumption that half of them are related to the drugs that have been introduced to the world pharmaceutical category and after a while, Iran can produce them domestically. Therefore, that’s why the country has no problem in supplying the required medicines for the people.

Indonesia 2nd Quarter GDP Seen Shrinking 4.61% Year-on-Year

JAKARTA (Reuters) - Indonesia’s economy likely posted the biggest contraction in more than two decades in the second quarter, as measures taken to combat the coronavirus pandemic hit most sectors, a Reuters poll showed on Monday.

The median forecast of 20 analysts in the poll was for Southeast Asia’s largest economy to post a contraction of 4.61% from a year ago, after growing 2.97% in the first quarter.

It would be the weakest figure since the first quarter of 1999, according to OECD data, and close to the government’s forecast for a 4.30% contraction and the central bank’s estimate of a 4% to 4.80% contraction.

The large-scale social restrictions put in place across Indonesia to contain the virus outbreak appear to have hit most components of economic activity.

“The overall deterioration in Q2 growth looks to have been broad-based,” Nomura said in a note, citing weaker sales of consumer-related goods, soft manufacturing productivity, low mining activity, moderating credit growth and a drop in tourism.



Nomura forecast Indonesia’s economy had contracted by 6.1% in the second quarter. “There are signs that suggest Indonesia’s economy is past its weakest point, but with the domestic outbreak not under control yet, economic activity is likely to remain under pressure,” ANZ economists said in a note, noting government spending and would not be able to offset other weaknesses.

Indonesia reported its first novel coronavirus infections in early March, though only started bringing in significant restrictions in April.

Since then the number of confirmed cases has topped 113,000 with more than 5,300 deaths, and the caseload accelerated in July.

Six analysts who shared their full-year growth forecast predicted Indonesia’s economy could contract by 0.8% in 2020, compared to 5.02% expansion in 2019.

Indonesia’s finance ministry expects flat economic growth or a slight contraction in 2020.

Imports of Goods...

FROM PAGE 1

Modarres Khiabani added that last year the volume of imports stood at \$43.7b, and the capital, intermediate goods and raw materials accounted for 85 percent of imports and the remaining 15 percent was for necessary consuming goods.

He reiterated that the ministry will not let the non-essential goods be imported from the official channels because it has no money and also one can find their likes in the country in abundance.

He then talked about the trade with the neighboring states and exports to those countries, noting that the strong point of the country has been badly affected by the cruel sanctions and the country should take advantage of border trade with neighboring states.

Modarres Khiabani noted that Iran has borders with 15 countries and its exports to those countries account for 60 percent of its total exports while the volume of imports of those countries stands at over \$1200b per annum and Iran’s share of their imports is just 2 percent (\$24b).

He added that if the country can double the figure, then the trade volume will hit \$48b and most of problems will alleviate.

He noted that Iran’s exports to Eurasian Union states since signing the agreement with them has grown by 63 percent.

Pakistan MP...

FROM PAGE 1

“Our mediation between Iran and Saudi Arabia has not stopped and we are making progress but slowly,” Khan told Al Jazeera.

“We have done our best to avoid a military confrontation between Iran and Saudi Arabia, and our efforts have succeeded”.

Tensions have been rising between Riyadh and Tehran over myriad issues, including the war in Yemen where the kingdom is battling the Houthi rebel movement.

Separately, Khan discussed his country’s long-standing dispute with neighboring India and accused Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi of undermining the South Asian giant’s legacy of secularism.

“India fell under the control of an extremist ideology [propounded by] the “RSS,” Khan said, referring to the “What India’s Muslims are facing resembles what happened during the extermination of Jews in Nazi Germany,” he said.

Khan, who assumed office in August 2018, said his country has exhausted all possible routes to peacefully resolve its dispute with its eastern neighbor but that economic interests ultimately prevented its efforts from bearing fruit.

JCPOA and Constitutionalism...

FROM PAGE 1

In 1906, people protested about the domestic condition and the performance of kings of Qajar Dynasty. One can find the roots of protests in issues like revelation of corruption in the administrative bodies, extravagance of the kings and their courts with the government treasury, pleasure trips of Mozaffar ad-Din Shah abroad, tyranny and oppression against people.



All these factors plus people’s awareness of the world news formed the Constitutional Revolution. The origin of the world Mashroatiye (constitutionalism) in Persian comes from Arabic word of “shart” (condition). So we can say the word Mashrooteh (Constitutional) means something that is conditional. The JCPOA was like the Constitutionalism where different agreements forced Iran to accept conditions whose disgrace was everlasting.

This movement, or according to the so-called betrayed people of the revolution, undoubtedly formed one of the most important events of Iran’s history during the Qajar Dynasty ruling. And ultimately Mozaffar ad-Din Shah on August 4 (Mordad 14) proclaimed the Constitutional ruling in the country and two days later he ordered for establishment of the first National Consultative Assembly. With this decision, the power seemed to exit from one person’s monopoly. The power was to shift to a behind-the-scene current which was run by the British in order to increase their influence more over the country.

With the king’s order, the assembly had two sessions a week and the sessions convened in the capital which was today’s Khordad 15 Square of Tehran. During the assembly’s meetings, some lawmakers were elected with the approvals of the king. And finally on December 30, 1906, the “political regulations” which is actually considered as the first Constitutions of Iran was prepared. This Constitution was comprised of 51 articles and it has been inspired by the constitutions of Belgium, France and Bulgaria and had been endorsed by the king. Ten days after this royal signature, Mozaffar ad-Din Shah died on January 9, 1907. After his death, Muhammad Ali Shah took power who was ardent opponent of Constitutionalism.

So when the first session of the National Consultative Assembly, two years after its foundation in 1907, convened, it was bombarded by Russian troops with full support of Muhammad Ali Shah’s kingdom. After this event, the climate of the society moved towards full suffocation. Some freedom-seekers, clerics and journalists staged protest rallies in support of the constitutionalism and they were hanged. In other words, the British were behind the pro-Constitutionalists and Russians were hidden behind the anti-Constitutionalists. The clerics had also been divided as some thought of the advantages of the constitutionalism and believed it could help the country get rid of dictatorship by limiting the power of the king and some clerics thought that the British are behind the Constitutionalists and they should align with the Russians to get rid of the Old Fox. Muhammad Ali Shah was in alignment with the Russians. Amid this conflict, the World War I broke out. Due to the war, the domestic political and economic condition fell in disarray more than before.

Ultimately Constitutionalism Movement began in Tabriz and with actions of two sardars (commanders), Sattar Khan and Baqer Khan, that later some hands presented both as national commanders. The movement began as the British wished it to confront Russia’s elements in the country. These two commanders resisted against the government forces and created link with freedom-seekers in other cities of Iran and finally invaded Tehran to topple King Muhammad Ali Shah and celebrated the victory.

With the victory of the Constitutionalists, Iran moved towards the Western intellectualism with more pace, and the western-oriented epidemics injection in the country’s structures accelerated day by day in a way that it was on the verge of closing down the seminaries in Najaf (Iraq) and Iran which had been established to promote Islam.

When we put the goals of the JCPOA beside the Constitutionalism, we see they are homogenous because we see some conditions had been set the JCPOA for the arrival of the Westerners and expansion of their economic and political influences, and according to the Supreme Leader’s remarks, they have inflicted huge damages on Iranian nation.

O'Sullivan Records Fastest Win in Crucible History

LONDON (Dispatches) - Ronnie O'Sullivan recorded the fastest win in Crucible history as he completed a 10-1 demolition of Thepchaiya Un-Nooh in less than two hours in the first round of the World Championship on Monday.

The five-time world champion took just 82 minutes to storm to an 8-1 advantage in the first session of their match behind closed doors on Sunday, with an average shot time of less than 14 seconds.

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Cagliari Appoint Di Francesco as Boss

ROME (Dispatches) - Cagliari have appointed Eusebio di Francesco as their new manager, the Serie A club announced on Monday.

In a statement, Sardinian outfit Cagliari said that Di Francesco had signed a two-year deal.

The former Sassuolo and Roma boss, sacked in October by Sampdoria, replaces Walter Zenga. Di Francesco, 50, made his mark as coach during his five years at Sassuolo, leading the club into Serie A for the first time in 2013 and qualifying for the Europa League in 2017.

Westbrook, Rockets Get By Bucks

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Russell Westbrook sank four free throws inside the final 28.5 seconds and the Houston Rockets topped the Milwaukee Bucks 120-116 at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex near Orlando.

Westbrook scored a team-high 31 points while adding eight assists, and his clutch effort at the charity stripe enabled the Rockets (42-24) to outlast the Bucks (54-13) down a back-and-forth closing stretch. Danuel House Jr. converted two free throws with 14 seconds left as the Rockets finished 27 of 31 from the line.

Giannis Antetokounmpo totaled 36 points, 18 rebounds and eight assists for his 15th 30-15-5 game this season while Khris Middleton (27 points, 12 rebounds) and Brook Lopez (23 points, 12 rebounds) posted double-doubles for the Bucks, who posted a 65-36 rebounding advantage and limited the Rockets to 34.4 percent (21 of 61) shooting from behind the 3-point line — yet lost the game. Milwaukee did commit 22 turnovers — including a bad pass by Antetokounmpo that House picked off prior to his clinching free throws — which the Rockets converted into 30 points in the victory.

Boston Celtics 128 - Portland Trail Blazers 124

Jayson Tatum scored a game-high 34 points and Jaylen Brown added 30 to lead Boston past Portland.

Brown scored 22 points in the second half, including a 3-pointer with 32.3 seconds left that stretched Boston's lead to 125-119. Gordon Hayward added 22 points for Boston, going 4-for-5 on 3-pointers. Damian Lillard and Jusuf Nurkic led Portland with 30 points each. Lillard added a season-high and game-high 16 assists. The Blazers rallied from a 24-point second-half deficit, taking a fourth-quarter lead, but they trailed by three points with three seconds left when Nurkic turned the ball over while attempting a long inbound pass.

Brooklyn Nets

118 - Washington Wizards 110

Caris LeVert scored 34 points as host Brooklyn made all the plays down the stretch and recorded a pivotal victory over Washington at HP Field House near Orlando.

The Nets (31-35) moved seven games ahead of Washington (24-42) in the Eastern Conference. LeVert helped the Nets close out



the game with an 18-10 run over the final five-plus minutes. Joe Harris added a season-high 27 on 10 of 13 from the field, Jarrett Allen collected 22 points and 15 rebounds while Chris Chiozza contributed 14 as Brooklyn shot 42.2 percent.

Orlando Magic 132 - Sacramento Kings 116

Terrence Ross scored 25 points off the bench, Nikola Vucevic posted a double-double of 23 points and 11 rebounds, and Orlando cruised past Sacramento in a seeding game.

The Magic (32-35) maintained their half-game lead for the Eastern Conference's No. 7 seed with a commanding performance against the Kings (28-38). Orlando jumped ahead early, made 18 of 38 3-point shots and grew its lead to as many as 36 points in the third quarter. Harry Giles III led the Kings with 23 points off the bench.

San Antonio Spurs 108 - Memphis Grizzlies 106

DeMar DeRozan hit a pair of free throws with 1 second to play and San Antonio survived to beat Memphis and close in on the eighth and final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

The victory allowed San Antonio (29-36) to pull to within two games of the eighth-place Grizzlies in the standings. The Spurs leapfrogged Portland, which lost to Boston on Sunday, into ninth place in the West with six games to play. The Spurs must hold that spot in the standings and be within four games of Memphis at the end of the seeding games to clinch a spot in the play-in tournament at season's end.

Phoenix Suns 117 - Dallas Mavericks 115

Devin Booker's 30 points helped Phoenix come back from a 15-point deficit and stun Dallas, which clinched a Western Conference playoff spot when the eighth-seeded Memphis Grizzlies lost earlier in the day.

The Suns (28-39) moved to within four games of the eighth playoff spot. Cameron Johnson added 19 points and 12 rebounds, and Ricky Rubio tallied 20 points and nine rebounds for Phoenix, which is 2-0 in the NBA restart.

Infantino to Respect Any Ethics Committee Decision

LAUSANNE (AFP) - FIFA president Gianni Infantino will "respect any decision by the ethics committee", world football's governing body said Monday after Swiss authorities opened criminal proceedings against him last week.

A Swiss special prosecutor has launched proceedings against Infantino, as part of an investigation into suspected collusion with the country's attorney general, Michael Lauber. Both have denied any wrongdoing.

"I've no doubt that Gianni Infantino would respect any decision by the ethics commission," FIFA deputy secretary general Alasdair Bell told a video news conference. "We don't see any evidence of criminal or unethical behavior," he said.

FIFA on Sunday insisted Infantino would continue to fulfil his duties as president and blasted the Swiss probe.

It gave no indication on Monday whether or not its ethics committee had instigated proceedings against Infantino.

"The ethics committee will have to come to its own conclusion... In every case, it needs to be tested, if there's something serious, there's a case for suspension," said Bell.

Questioned about Infantino's absence during Monday's video conference, Bell said the FIFA chief "will be available and will speak in order to clear his name."

He added: "FIFA and Gianni Infantino have absolutely nothing to hide, we want to be transparent. There's no factual basis for this criminal procedure."

Infantino and Lauber are said to have held a series of meetings in 2016 and 2017.

Two such meetings were initially exposed in 2018 by "Football Leaks", a cross-border investigation by several European news organizations.

In a statement Thursday, Swiss authorities said special prosecutor Stefan Keller "has reached the conclusion that... there are indications of criminal conduct" in relation to meetings between Infantino, Lauber and another official, Rinaldo Arnold.

Hagi No Longer Manager of His Own Club



BUCHAREST (Reuters) - Romania great Gheorghe "Gica" Hagi has stepped aside as manager of his own club Viitorul Constanta following a poor run of performances.

Hagi said in a statement that "together with the president of the club we will have to find a new manager in the next days". Viitorul failed to qualify for the playoffs between the top six teams in the domestic league.

Hagi, nicknamed "The Maradona of the Carpathians" and considered Romania's

all-time greatest player, founded Viitorul in 2009 and still owns the club, known for nurturing young talent in the Black Sea state.

He led his club to their maiden Romanian title in 2017 and the Romanian Cup as well as the domestic Supercup last year. Hagi, who won 124 international caps and went to three World Cups, played for several top European clubs including Real Madrid and Barcelona. He won the UEFA Cup with Galatasaray in 2000.

The 55-year-old has also coached the Romanian national team, Steaua Bucharest, Politehnica Timisoara, Bursaspor and Galatasaray.

Murray Wants Assurance On Quarantine Issues Before U.S. Open

LONDON (Reuters) - Players need assurance that they would not face mandatory quarantine upon returning to Europe from the U.S. Open before travelling to New York amid the COVID-19 pandemic, former world number one Andy Murray has said.

Organizers United States Tennis Association (USTA) will set up a strict bio-security 'bubble' to minimise the risk of contracting the novel coronavirus during the Grand Slam, which will be played from Aug. 31-Sept. 13.

The Western & Southern Open, which was relocated from Cincinnati this year because of COVID-19, will also be held in New York from Aug. 20-28 and will serve as a tune-up for the hardcourt Grand Slam.

Mandatory quarantine would rule out players' participation in other ATP and WTA claycourt events scheduled in Europe before the French Open from the end of September.

The two major claycourt events in the leadup to Roland Garros are in Madrid (Sept. 13-20) and Rome (Sept. 20-27).

While Spain does not require mandatory quarantine, Italy would need travellers to quarantine for 14 days if coming from the U.S. The USTA has said the organisers are working with relevant authorities to resolve issues.

"My understanding is that it would be sorted before we go to America. But things can change in the next 10 to 12 days," Murray told British media.



Hamilton Is Uncatchable

SILVERSTONE (Dispatches) - Lewis Hamilton is uncatchable in this year's drivers' world championship, according to his main rivals.

Both Max Verstappen of Red Bull and Charles Leclerc of Ferrari effectively conceded the title on Sunday after the British Grand Prix as the six-time champion claimed his third straight.

That the championship leader completed the race on three wheels made no difference to their view that the only man with a chance of overhauling Hamilton is his Mercedes team-mate Valtteri Bottas.

After claiming his record seventh victory in Sunday's dramatic race, Hamilton is 30 points clear of the Finn, who finished 11th after suffering an identical front-left tyre failure.

With only four of an expected 15 races completed, his rivals were asked if Hamilton can be caught

Verstappen, the runner up on Sunday, simply replied: "No."

Leclerc, who finished third to move up to fifth in the title race, 55 points adrift of Hamilton, echoed the sentiment.

"If the question is 'can anybody stop Lewis?' then, no. I think the guy that has some chances is Valtteri, but that's it," the Ferrari driver said. Bottas, who slipped 25 points further behind Hamilton after failing to score, admitted: "Of course, it's not ideal..."

"For the moment, if everything goes to the plan with the calendar there are going to be more than 10 races, but we just don't know."

