

**Health Ministry Spokeswoman
Sima Sadat Lari Said on Tuesday
That Some 168 More Iranians Have
Died From Coronavirus Disease
(COVID-19) Over the Past 24 Hours
As Death Toll Reaches 19,972**

IRAN NEWS

**Head of the National Headquarters
For Managing and Fighting the
Coronavirus in Tehran Says the
Results of the Human Trials Phase
Of the Iranian COVID-19 Vaccine
Will Be Clear in November**

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Recent UNSC Meeting, Political, Historical Victory for Iran

TEHRAN (PressTV) - President Hassan Rouhani says a recent meeting of the United Nations Security Council that led to resounding failure of the United States in its effort to extend an arms embargo on the Islamic Republic marked a great political achievement and a historical victory for the Iranian nation.

Rouhani made the remarks in a meeting with senior officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) in Tehran, noting that the U.S. and its President Donald Trump have been snubbed twice in the world body during past few years. Rouhani said "the United Nations Security Council held an important meeting" in 2018, which was chaired by Trump "when I was also in New York," and in that meeting, 14 members of the Security Council opposed his views.

"There is no precedent in history of the Security Council when 14 countries opposed [the US views]," he added.

This time, he said, the U.S. once again was attempting to pass a resolution against Tehran on Friday, but only one country -- the Dominican Republic -- out of 15 members of the Security Council voted in favor of it.

"This is a big political and historical success for us," the Iranian president added. Elsewhere in his remarks, Rouhani also pointed to Iran's two-time victories against the US at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), and said it was unprecedented in the history for the international court to rule twice during the same year against Washington in its face-off with Tehran.

"These are all a reality," the Iranian president emphasized.

Iran Capable of Building Strategic Weapons

TEHRAN (MNA) - The Iranian defense minister said his ministry has gained the necessary expertise and infrastructure to build strategic weapon systems in line with boosting the country's defense power.

"The Defense Ministry can build strategic weapons now, provided it is supported by the Parliament over the budget needs," Brigadier General Amir Hatami said on Tuesday in a meeting with the number of Parliamentarians at the Defense Ministry's achievements' exhibition in Tehran.

Referring to the vital role of the Defense Ministry in providing the country with peace and security against the external threats, the minister said, "The Parliament's support can hugely contribute to realizing such goals."

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Iran Urges Muslim Parliaments To Act against UAE-Israel Deal



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Majlis Speaker has urged the legislatures of Islamic countries to do all in their power to block a "shameful" normalization deal between Israel and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), saying Muslim parliamentarians must join forces to foil a "political assassination" of the Palestinian people.

In a message sent to his counterparts in Muslim states on Tuesday, Mohammad-Baqer Qalibaf said the UAE-Israel agreement undermines efforts being made by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC) towards upholding the inalienable rights of the oppressed Palestinian nation.

Qalibaf said the U.S.-brokered deal, which was released on Thursday, "encourages the usurpers of the Palestinian territory to occupy [even more land], deny the Palestinian people their rights, and destabilize regional peace and security; therefore, the compromise deal lacks any legal validity" in the eyes of the Palestinians and the entire Islamic Ummah.

He also praised the Palestinians for sticking to their culture and history, making sacrifices for their cause, and rejecting any compromise with the usurpers of the land of Palestine and Jerusalem al-Quds over the past seven decades of Israeli occupation.

The Iranian Parliament strongly condemns any measures that violate the Palestinians' rights, including the UAE-Israel deal, he said.

The agreement, he added, is a "strategic mistake" on the part of Abu Dhabi as well as a "provocative move" that encourages the continuation of the crimes committed by the Zionist regime and threatens peace and security in the region.

"Accordingly, it is necessary for the parliaments of Muslim countries, as the representatives of Muslim nations, to firmly condemn the measure, based on Islamic teachings," Qalibaf said.

The legislatures are also expected to "employ all parliamentary measures and initiatives to oppose and block this shameful agreement and uphold the inalienable rights of the Palestinians," he emphasized.

Qalibaf further called on the Muslim parliaments to push their respective governments to condemn the normalization deal and use all their international and regional capacities to foil "this political assassination of the noble Palestinian people."

U.S. Bid for Snapback Mechanism Against Iran Unlawful

TEHRAN (Tasnim) - Russia's ambassador to Tehran voiced his country's opposition to the US' illegal push to trigger a snapback mechanism that invokes sanctions against Tehran under the 2015 nuclear deal, saying Washington is no more a party to the JCPOA.

In an interview with Tasnim, Levan Jagarian hailed the result of recent voting at the UN Security Council against a US-initiated resolution for the extension of an arms embargo on Iran.

He said the vote indicated that nearly all UNSC members had positive and realistic views, noting that Russia is very satisfied with the three European countries' decision to abstain.

"As regards the snapback (mechanism), we have emphasized several times at various levels and have also made it clear for Americans that this is an illegal attempt," Jagarian added. "The U.S. has withdrawn from the JCPOA for more than two years and has nothing to do with the (UNSC) Resolution 2231, so the US' attempt is illegal and has no legal ground," the ambassador added, hoping that the EU3 would hold the same view.

The ambassador then pointed to a new proposal made by Russian President Vladimir Putin on holding an online summit among the heads of the five permanent UNSC members, plus Iran and Germany, to discuss various issues, not only the JCPOA, but also the current situation in the Persian Gulf.

The Russian envoy said the chaotic situation in the region requires collective action for de-escalation of tensions, so that the regional countries, be it Iran, its neighbors, or the Arab states, would not have reciprocal feelings of fear. Jagarian added that Russia is going to discuss the issue of the online summit with the US, saying it could be the first step in a long-term process. Asked about Russia's success to produce a vaccine for the novel coronavirus, Jagarian said his country is ready to provide Iran with the Russian vaccine.

Expressing Russia's readiness to work with the other countries on the production and export of the COVID-19 vaccine that has passed tests in his country, he said several countries such as Brazil, Vietnam, Serbia and the Philippines have applied for the Russian vaccine. The ambassador said he has informed the Iranian Foreign Ministry of Moscow's readiness for cooperation with Tehran, noting that a Russian company has been designated to work with an Iranian peer to discuss the conditions and date of delivering the vaccine to Iran.

Russia will always stand by the friendly Iranian nation and is prepared to fully support the Islamic Republic of Iran in the difficult conditions, Jagarian concluded.



ViewPoint

By: Hamid Reza Naghashian



Snapback Mechanism, A Broken Knife

Humiliating defeat of the White House during the United Nations Security Council voting on the U.S. resolution for extending Iran arms embargo has gripped madly U.S. President Donald Trump and his surroundings from his Secretary of State to his National Security Advisor and even the U.S. Ambassador at the UN so that all have been infuriated in a way that they did not think of being remained so isolated in exercising their political will against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

After consecutive defeats in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and Venezuela, and with a disgraceful record due to assassinating of Martyr Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani and in order to undermine those defeats, the White House has tried in these days to present a resolution to the UNSC in order to take initiative in a way to compensate the small part of its recent defeats, and to block lifting the Iran arms embargo which ends in October. Fortunately they did not achieve any success either in this issue.

Raging bulls in the Spanish bullfighting, after several times that they run in chase of the red cloth and failing to stop the bullfighter, strive madly and sometimes in the old tradition of "Saint Fermin", they die of sorrow and anger. Nowadays Trump is in such a condition. Immediately after the result of the UNSC voting on the U.S. resolution on Iran arms embargo announced, Trump started efforts for attack and he throws his hand to grab any dust and trash at the time of drowning. In other words, we can say snapback mechanism is one of these efforts.

This time the White House has decided to highlight snapback mechanism and it tries by the scenario of the broken knife not to retreat at least in the media world and to compensate its defeat against the Islamic Republic of Iran by resorting to this mechanism.

Snapback mechanism is a JCPOA measure which has been stipulated in the articles 11 and 12 of Iran's nuclear deal, namely the JCPOA. In a simple word one should say that snapback mechanism means immediate return to the pre-JCPOA era and return of the sanctions against Iran. In the Resolution 2231 of the UN, it has been mentioned that in case one of the signatories of the nuclear deal, the JCPOA, comprising of Germany, France, UK, Russia, China, the U.S. and Iran complains about lack of commitment, the complaint should be first reviewed at the joint commission of the JCPOA and if they do not reach an agreement, the case is to be referred to the UNSC.

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Israel Seeking to Expand Secret Economic Ties With UAE

TEHRAN (PressTV) - A report shows Israelis are seeking to further expand their once secret but massive ties with the UAE.

The Israeli regime is seeking to further expand its already secret but massive economic ties with the United Arab Emirates now that the two have reached a controversial agreement to have formal diplomatic relations.

Israeli financial newspaper the Calclist said in a report that Israel is already enjoying massive economic ties with the UAE and even before the normalization of ties was announced last week.

It said the regime in Tel Aviv is now seeking to build on that open secret to expand exports to the UAE, an Arab country which relies on imports for a bulk of its needs.

Ron Tomer, president of the Manufacturers Association of Israel, told Calclist that Israel has been using third countries for years to process exports to the UAE.

Tomer said, however, that the normalization of diplomatic ties would hugely benefit the Israeli companies as they can directly deal with customers in the UAE.

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Government Devises Economic Roadmap

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – President Hassan Rouhani said his administration has prepared a roadmap to economy for the one remaining year of his tenure.

In remarks at a Tuesday meeting of the Economic Coordination Headquarters, President Rouhani said a strategic document on the “economic road map” for the eighth year of his administration has been formulated and will be unveiled next week.

Implementation of the new road map would create synergy among various economic sectors for thriving production, he added.

Rouhani also hailed his administration’s success in foiling the hostile plots for disruption to Iran’s progress under an economic war, saying the new road map would also consolidate and regulate the financial resources and cause maximum popular cooperation for calm and stability.

U.S. Is Not a Superpower Anymore

TEHRAN (IP) - Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said the recent U.S. miscalculation showed that the era of this country as a superpower is over.

Speaking in a TV interview, Zarif stressed that Americans have been miscalculating for the past 17 years and the recent vote at the United Nations Security Council is among a few matters that European countries didn’t follow Americans.

He noted that the U.S. government has always tried to extend the UN arms embargo on Iran, saying that “the U.S. faced failure in this case because of its wrong policy, which began since the Trump’s decision in withdrawing from JCPOA.”

Zarif went on to say that “the U.S. government are now in a predicament as its resolution was not passed in the United Nations Security Council, the US officials do not understand that the world’s situation has been changed, and this country has always tried to move against the international community.”

Underling that the era of the U.S. as a superpower is over, Zarif added: “Americans thought they can gain the positive votes in the UNSC, but they failed and even European countries didn’t support the US resolution against Iran.”

The United Nations Security Council overwhelmingly rejected a U.S. resolution to extend an Iranian arms embargo on Friday.

Only two of the Council’s 15 members voted in favor, highlighting the division



between Washington and its European allies since U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew from the nuclear accord in May 2018.

Elsewhere, Zarif pointed to the controversial agreement between the Israeli regime and the United Arab Emirates that has apparently been brokered by the US and condemned by Palestinian groups and resistance countries.

“The Zionist regime that is the biggest security threat tells regional countries that Iran is the biggest threat and I am your survivor,” Zarif said, adding that they have ‘swindled’ the regional countries with this approach.

These countries “betray the Palestinian cause to use the Israeli security,” said the diplomat, framing, “Have the Israeli regime managed to defend itself against Hamas and Hezbollah to be able to defend you?”

Iran Marks 30th Anniversary of Return of War Prisoners

TEHRAN (IFP) -Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Seyyed Abbas Araqchi has held a videoconference with the Foreign Ministry’s former prisoners of war (POW) on the 30th anniversary of the return of the first group of Iranian prisoners of war to the country.

During the friendly virtual meeting held on Monday, Araqchi congratulated the honourable veterans on the

recent Islamic Eids (Eid al-Ghadir and Eid al-Adha) and the anniversary of the return of the prisoners of war.

Araqchi described former prisoners of war as the assets of the Islamic Revolution, and said the large number of war prisoners linked to the Iranian Foreign Ministry is a source of pride for the Ministry.

“In addition to the war prisoners of the Sacred

Defence era [the eight-year war imposed by Iraq on Iran], the Iranian Foreign Ministry also has a number of former prisoners who were tortured in the prisons of the Pahlavi regime before the 1979 Revolution as well as prisoners who were held captive by Takfiri terrorist groups,” he said, describing it as a distinctive point for the Foreign Ministry.

Araqchi also pointed to the Ministry’s efforts to venerate war veterans and their families, and said, “The Foreign Ministry feels duty-bound to fulfil its legal duties in this regard seriously and without the usual procedural complexities.”

The former war prisoners, in turn, thanked Mr Araqchi, and expressed their views about various issues including the reinforcement and promotion of the culture of sacrifice at the Foreign Ministry and the country’s foreign policy.

30 years ago on August 17, 1990, the first group of Iranian prisoners of war was released by former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussain and they could finally return to their motherland.

The event was considered as the most important step for complete enforcement of the UN Security Council’s Resolution 598 to provide peace between Iran and Iraq.

Diplomat Reaffirms Iran’s Support for Syria In Talks With Assad

TEHRAN (IFP) - Ali-Asghar Khaji, a senior assistant to Iran’s Foreign Minister in special political affairs, has met with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in Damascus.

In the meeting, Khaji referred to the recent parliamentary elections held in Syria, and expressed the Islamic Republic’s resolve to continue supporting the Syrian nation and government in their fight against terrorism and the unfair sanctions imposed against them.

He also underlined the need for continued consultations between the two countries on bilateral and regional issues ahead of the virtual meeting of the leaders of the guarantor states of Astana Process in Tehran as well as the upcoming meetings in Geneva on the Syrian Constitutional Committee.

President Assad, in turn, praised Iran’s stances towards the Syrian nation and government, and highlighted the strategic importance of Tehran-Damascus bilateral relations as well as the reinforcement of the Axis of Resistance.

He also stressed his country’s resolve for coordination and cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran in a bid to neutralize the U.S.’ economic terrorism plots and its sanctions.

During his trip to Damascus, the Iranian diplomat also held talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Muallem on the latest status of bilateral ties and the Arab country’s developments.

The two sides discussed the Israeli regime’s continued occupation and its aggressive measures against the rights of Palestinians and regional countries, and underlined the need for vigilance against the regime’s plots.

Ayatollah Taskhiri Passes Away

TEHRAN (MNA) – Ayatollah Mohammad Ali Taskhiri, member of Iran’s Expediency Council and senior advisor to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution passed away on Tuesday.

Ayatollah Mohammad Ali Taskhiri, representative of Tehran province in Iran’s Expediency Council and senior advisor to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution passed away at the age of 76 after a heart attack on Tuesday.

He established the Islamic Culture and Relation Organization in 1995.

In 2001, he was elected by Ayatollah Khamenei as the Secretary-General of the World Forum for Proximity of Islamic Schools of Thought.

On July 14, 2012, he resigned from his post as the Secretary-General of the World Forum for Proximity of Islamic Schools of Thought and was appointed as senior advisor to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution in the affairs of the Islamic world.



Foreign Media Trying to Destabilize Iran’s Stock Market

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli said foreign media are after instigating stock market, saying they provoke people to sell their shares.

Speaking to reporters, Rahmani Fazli said people’s welcome to stock market has so far resulted in major steps with regard to attracting liquidity.

He added that bourse in some cases faces fluctuation which should be compensated by experts.

Enemies promote instability in media, he said, adding “we hope to manage the current situation in the best way possible. Earlier, President Hassan Rouhani said that the Iranian government has a plan to supply oil in the energy bourse so that the traders can trade oil in the domestic market.

The Iranian president said that the government plan is aimed at controlling the existing liquidity and guiding it in a way so as to help the country’s growth and fight sanctions.

He assured the Iranian people that the government will do its best to create stability in the country’s economy and will spare no effort to protect the assets of the people.

Iran to Build a Giant Port Along Southern Coasts

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iran is planning to build a giant port along the coast of Mokran, southern Sistan and Baluchestan province, a senior official said.

Managing Director of Iran’s Port and Maritime Organization Mohammad Rastad underlined on Monday the strategic position of Mokran coasts, along the Sea of Oman, saying, the new port will be established to increase Iran’s marine traffic in international waters and the oceans.

“Mokran coastline can play a special role in the future of marine exchanges,” Rastad said. Mokran is a semi-desert coastal strip in the South of Sistan and Baluchestan, in Pakistan and Iran, along the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman.

Noting that the Iranian ports have an aggregate capacity to handle 246 million tons of goods per year, the PMO head said, the figure is projected to rise to 286 million tons by the end of the Sixth Five-Year Development Plan (2017-22). Rastad added, “PMO plans to build 83 new cargo vessels to join the country’s cargo fleet.”

“One of the major activities of the PMO is that 83 vessels needed in the ports will be built by the domestic manufacturers with an estimated investment of 240 million euros,” he said.

Oil Shipment Seized by U.S. Already Sold, Paid for

TEHRAN (IFP) - The Iranian oil minister says the shipment that the United States claims has seized contained Iranian petrol sold to customers.

Bijan Namdar Zanganeh said the consignment did not belong to Iran. “The U.S. has claimed it has seized Iran’s petrol shipment. However, although the consignments had been shipped from Iran, neither were the vessels Iranian nor did the shipment belong to Iran,” said the oil minister.

“The shipment was Iranian petrol already sold to a customer,” he noted, adding that the customer had paid for the consignment. The U.S. claims it has seized Iranian fuel cargoes aboard ships bound for Venezuela.

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Car lighting in the Style of Modern Industry

Ali Changi Talks About The Development of Car Parts



The automotive industry is considered a key industry in terms of its extensive relationship with a chain of industries before and after it, and has a high potential for job creation and economic development. In the construction of the car, a set of technologies of metal, plastic, chemical, wood, fabric, insulation, glass, electrical, electronic, metallurgy, design, etc. are involved. For this reason, the automotive industry ranks second among the country's industries in terms of the latter correlation coefficient. Some estimates suggest that two jobs will be created for the production of each vehicle, of which 17% will be direct employment (automotive and parts manufacturing) and 83% will be indirect employment (upstream industries and automotive service activities). Now, due to its dependence on the government, this industry has always been influenced by political developments and is looking for direct and indirect government support. However, despite half a century of history, the challenges facing the industry have prevented the automotive industry in Iran from keeping pace with global developments and having a say in competitive markets; But in recent years, some private companies with effort, effort, expertise and private capital have been able to have potential exports in the field of parts in addition to meeting domestic needs. One of the most important parts of the car, which in addition to providing lighting, has a beautiful role in the front and rear of the car is the light. In general, car headlights are composed of about 40 different parts, each of which has a specific function and function. From electrical and mechanical connections to light reflectors (reflectors), lighting supply modules (LEDs), superficial lenses, etc., each of these components within this set requires professional design and engineering. One of the largest and most modern manufacturers of car lights in the country is the Modern Industry Research Group. This company was established in the 90's with the subject of creating and launching a manufacturing and industrial factory for manufacturing and producing light and heavy car headlights and motorcycles. Ali Changi, CEO of the company, talks about the challenges, concerns, suggestions and ideas related to the production, supply and expansion of auto parts.

Localization of parts under sanctions is one of the requirements for the survival of the automotive industry. Given this, how far have we come in the right direction?

Almost 30 years before the collapse of Talbot Company in England, which was one of the manufacturers of cars and auto parts for the Iranian market, in order to supply the parts needed by domestic automakers, the production of auto parts was formed in the country. Over the past 30 years, significant investment has been made in various sectors of the industry, which now has the capacity to produce two million vehicles domestically. There is still an investment attractiveness in this sector, because in addition to the capacity of two million units for automakers, more than 20 million vehicles are in circulation across the country that need a proportionate volume of parts. Also, due to the high prices of auto parts abroad, there is a good field for exports in this regard. In general, this industry has a significant value creation, because in addition to economic characteristics, it promotes the level of knowledge in the country and by learning and expanding it promotes engineering behavior throughout the country. For example, in the comparison between parts manufacturing and oil and gas industries, learning the general level of engineering knowledge of parts manufacturing is very effective.

The parts internalization movement is one of the most important approaches in this industry. What are the internal and external barriers in this regard and what steps has your company taken in this regard?

In recent years, with increasing external pressures from sanctions, almost all sectors of industry, trade and services have been overshadowed by these sanctions. It must be rooted in the weakness of the correct attitude of the policymakers of the economic system, which was a potential threat and came to fruition with the escalation of sanctions. As a result, they were less likely to have problems in any area where better economic policies and policies were implemented. Organizations that looked more external naturally ran into serious problems. In parts manufacturing, in some areas such as body, decoration, engine and propulsion, good measures have been taken, which in practice, the production lines of automakers have less problems. But in some areas, such as electricity and electronics and the fuel system, it received less attention or a monopoly, which caused more problems for automakers. It is safe to say that a lack of understanding of the harsh conditions of sanctions at home has been far more detrimental than the behavior of foreigners in the area of sanctions. For example, in order to circumvent the sanctions, the sanctioned goods should be included in the names of other goods and similarities, for which practically no solution has been found in this regard in the Ministry of Industry and Customs. In practice, not only is no solution offered, but their specific behaviors slow down the cycle of imports of sanctioned goods.

The auto industry faced a tsunami of substandard Chinese auto parts in the market before the escalation of sanctions. What were the consequences?

We have to look for the root of low quality parts in the market in our internal system. Auto parts contain a high level of technical knowledge and engineering information that most people are unaware of. If Iranian businessmen and traders do not have sufficient and necessary information in the field of parts technology and are only looking for profit and profit and trade unions related to imports and automotive services do not perform their legal duties properly, we do not blame Chinese manufacturers. Today, a large number of consumed parts are produced in China worldwide and have almost no major problems. This situation will continue as long as the illegal import is done by non-professionals on the basis of profit and personal gain. The only way out of this situation is to raise the level of knowledge and awareness of car service companies, classes and perform the duties and awareness of the people so that they can identify good local producers and achieve the desired quality level and growth and development of this profession.

Many interior design experts see parts as a precise strategy for overcoming the auto industry embargo. What is your view on this category?

If we consider parts manufacturing as the basis of the automotive industry and the automaker as one of the most central sectors of the transportation industry and then transportation as one of the pillars of growth and development of society, then we realize the role of parts internalization. More importantly, unfortunately, a large part of our transportation industry is done only with light and heavy vehicles. If Americans target sanctions in the auto industry, they know full well that not only car manufacturing but also transportation and growth and development at all levels of the country will be disrupted. Hence, the enemy has deliberately imposed sanctions on car manufacturing and parts manufacturing. The way out of this impasse is to look at the internal capacity for production, where this obstacle can be overcome by effectively communicating with science, research centers and science and technology parks, as well as investing in knowledge-based companies.

Production of 20,000 pieces is one of the capabilities of the company "Modern Industry Research Group". What components do you need to upgrade this capacity? And if so, how much will you increase production capacity?

In terms of production capacity, we have been able to increase the production capacity of our products to 20,000 pieces per day by creating the necessary infrastructure, such as setting up standard production lines, with the latest equipment in the world and relying on the knowledge and awareness of specialized staff. Prerequisite components for increasing production capacity are liquidity to increase investment in equipment and lines. Therefore, according to the investments made and the existing infrastructure, the company has the ability to upgrade the production capacity to 30,000 pieces per day.

Why do you think the Iranian people are indifferent to national production?
And what should be done to correct this issue?

Public trust and social capital are considered to be the most important assets of a system, and unfortunately some manufacturers have neglected this issue and have reduced public confidence in domestically produced products by profiting from underemployment or underselling of goods and services. The people of the society accept the protection of domestic goods if they are sure that the benefit of this protection will return to them. Therefore, branding and providing after-sales service and responding to the needs and expectations of consumers is a solution that is proposed to gain people's trust in domestic goods. In the meantime, however, raising public awareness of the social, political and economic benefits of protecting domestic goods plays an important role, which is the task of government institutions and social media.

Do you agree with the import of stock cars of famous brands with very low prices?

This should be taken into account when importing stock cars in order to balance supply and demand and stabilize prices in the car market. Due to the high import tariff on cars and related spare parts, this will not reduce prices in the car market. On the other hand, due to sanctions and lack of supplies and spare parts, it is not possible to provide after-sales service. This issue can only be viewed in a positive light if a new technology is introduced with the arrival of a foreign car and it is possible to produce and gain experience in car parts. In this case, it is possible to increase the supply capacity of the car and increase the possibility of producing spare parts and technical knowledge.

One of the necessities of making a leap in production is technology, which due to the old technology of Iranian industries, low productivity and high production costs. But your company has been able to overcome this problem by importing and localizing up-to-date machines. How have you been able to solve this big problem?

One of the problems in the economic efficiency of the automotive industry is the high overhead costs of this industry. Costs such as manpower and the cost of old technology increase the cost of production

by reducing productivity. Based on the experience of partnership and launch of production technology with foreign companies and relying on the technical knowledge of our experts and using reverse engineering as well as identifying the weaknesses of existing equipment, we designed and built production equipment with enhanced capabilities. This means that we not only eliminated the weaknesses of the equipment and thus improved the quality of our products, but also localized our organizational knowledge about some technologies and eliminated the need for foreign specialists to eliminate breakdowns and defects.

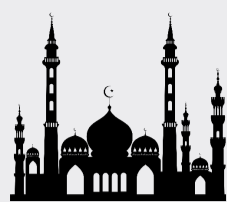
What is your view on moving towards new models of supply and production support services and what have you done in this regard?

Regarding the move towards new models of supply and production support services, it must be acknowledged that some supply companies are based on imports and formed on a commercial basis, which are the main sponsors of imports and obstacles to the expansion of localization, so leading these firms to cooperation and partnership With domestic producers, it can increase the commercial capacities of producers. Due to the effective communication of these companies with suppliers, new technologies and technologies, as well as their knowledge of foreign consumer markets, this capacity can be used to develop domestic production through their cooperation and interaction with domestic producers. These two advantages can not only improve the technical and quality of domestic workshops, but also increase production and business prosperity.

To what extent does the Modern Industry Research Group believe in innovation? What are your plans for the development of the company?

The company has taken advantage of the investments made to equip the machinery and facilities of the relevant industry; as it now has the complete technology of manufacturing and producing new generation lights. The technical and quality control laboratories of this company have the approval of the National Standard Organization of Iran and as a laboratory, it has continuous cooperation with the standard organization. The most important equipment and facilities in this company include equipment and devices for automatic coating of HARD COATING lens, equipment and devices for automatic reflector coating, all kinds of plastic injection machines and accessories in the size of 80 to 1100 tons, vacuum plating machines for metallized coating, all kinds of injection machines BMC press, robotic lines for assembling all kinds of car headlights, compounding of polymeric raw materials, machines for producing packing cartons, production lines for all kinds of car wires, all kinds of machines and tools for metalworking and milling molding (CNC). The company also has a quality control laboratory in the field of performance and durability tests in physical and chemical environments, and also has metering and colorimetric testing devices for various types of car headlights. In recent years, it can be stated with certainty that the design and production of lights for the Dena and Denaplus families are the most complex lamp production projects in the country's auto spare parts industry, all done by the Modern Industry Research Group with private investment. On the other hand, all the products of this company have the E-Mark standard from foreign institutes and laboratories and the national standard of Iran, and currently have ISO 9001, IATF 16949 in the quality management system in the automotive industry. Modern industry research group, despite the international restrictions imposed on the automotive industry, has produced more than 80% of consumer parts with the best domestic quality. By acquiring this capability, it has started to manufacture the equipment of its production lines based on the highest level of technology of foreign component manufacturers. Due to the development of the company's activities in the field of production of brake pads, antifreeze and car side mirrors, significant entrepreneurship has been achieved. This has been an effective step in creating jobs and creating new job opportunities, so much so that today the population of the large family of this company can be considered as over four thousand people. In the last word, the company undertakes to prioritize the health of employees in the safest production and welfare conditions, increase its products by maintaining and improving the quality, in the field of design and production of lights up to 30% to take another big step in manufacturing parts in Iran.





PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	13:07
■ Evening (Maghreb)	20:07
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:57
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:27

94. Whoever works any act of righteousness and has faith, - His endeavour will not be rejected: We shall record it in his favour.
95. But there is a ban on any population which We have destroyed: that they shall not return, Surah 21. The Prophets (94 - 95)

Tehran, Moscow to Cooperate in Mining Sector

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Iranian Mining Engineering Organization (IMEO) and Russian Export Center (REC) signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperating in engineering and mineral sectors.

In a ceremony held in Tehran, director of IMEO Mr. Taghi Nabaei and director of REC Mr. Pavel Bukhanov signed the deal for cooperation in mineral sector.

The REC is actually a holding, comprised of three companies which tries to expand exports to Iran and according to the existing data, the amount of Russia's exports to Iran last year grew 31 percent comparing to the preceding year. Exim Bank of Russia is one of the subset of the REC and the affiliated companies of the center function under supervision of Russia's industry and trade ministry.

Addressing the ceremony, Mr. Nabaei said according to the MoU, the ground for expanding cooperation between Iran and Russia is laid and both countries enjoy good potentials in mine and mineral sector.

He further said that IMEO has currently over real 41,000 members which are experts and skillful and it has 2,000 legal members with 15 specialized fields which are mostly companies active in the mine and mineral sector.

According to him, the central council and main headquarters of the organization determines operational programs for 31 provinces and it prepares the necessary policies.

Nabaei noted that the members of the organization enjoy having necessary capabilities for exploration activities and extractions from the depth by utilizing the modern technology and at the same time they have enough potentials to avoid sales of raw mineral materials.

He expressed his satisfaction over Russia's capabilities regarding the advance



mineral machineries, adding that the REC can help Iran in imports of industrial machinery for mine and mineral sectors.

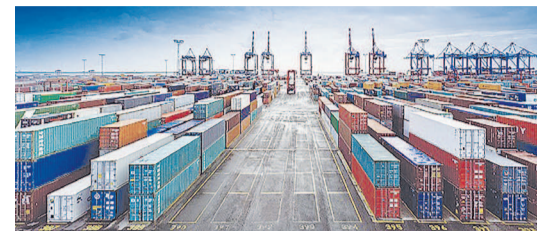
He noted that everything is ready for link of Iran's mine and mineral sector to their Russian counterparts in order to lay the ground for the future cooperation.

Meanwhile addressing the ceremony, head of developing mine and steel cooperation of the REC Mr. Alexi Kimov, for his part, said signing the MoU with IMEO lays the ground for expanding cooperation in the mine and mineral industries and it is predicted that it would play an effective role in the future cooperation between both states.

On the sidelines of the ceremony, Bukhanov told reporters that Russian government supports the programs of the REC and in case Russian made equipment is used, the government and Russian banks would grant loan facilities. He added there is a list, comprised of 2500 items, which can use Russian government's facilities.

According to the statistics of Russia's Customs Administration, the trade volume of Iran and Russia stood at \$1.74b in 2018 as Russia's exports to Iran were some \$1.2b while Iran exported only goods worth \$533m while the trade between both countries in 2017 was \$1.7 and Russia's exports to Iran were some \$1.3b.

Quota for Goods Accompanying Passengers in FTZs Not Materialized Yet



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – While in the past months no goods accompanying passenger have been cleared in the free trade zones and all the goods have been accumulated, despite all efforts the ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade has not taken any action in communicating the agreed forex quota.

Since long time ago, economic activists in the septet free trade zones of the country especially in Qeshm Free Zone have expressed their complaints regarding the accumulation of goods and lack of clearance from the customs offices and have called for examining it.

These goods are exactly the goods accompanying passengers which according to the approval of the government cabinet, under the title of goods accompanying passengers and based on rationing, can be taken into the free zones for sales in the stores and shops. This is while since the early 2018 and with the intensification of the U.S. sanctions and the necessity for supporting the domestic production and control of forex system, the government cabinet has set up a workgroup with presence of representatives of the Central Bank, Industry Ministry, Customs Administration, Agro Jihad Ministry and with Supreme Council of Free Special Economic Zones in charge of the group in order to prepare the list and forex quota for the goods accompanying passengers in the beginning of the year and to communicate it for execution by the council.

But this year although the workgroup has determined the quota and approved the 450-million-dollar quota, this approval has not been communicated by the industry ministry to the supreme council and for this reason, the goods have been accumulated in those zones.

As the officials of the free trade zones say, resolving the issue of the accumulated goods relies on the Industry Ministry's communication and till now and despite follow-ups, no action has been taken yet.

Economic activists in the free trade zones believe that delay in clearance of those goods has its consequences for the zones, noting that creating hurdle for legal arrival of the goods may lead to imports of the goods from illegal avenues and smuggling.

It seems the provision of the open forex is the reason that the ministry refrains from issuing the communication while this year's quota has decreased 15 percent to \$450m comparing to last year's.

NIDC Inks Three-Way Deal for Developing Balaroud Project



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – National Iranian Drilling Company (NIDC) on Monday signed a deal with Iranian Offshore Oil Company (IOOC) and Jahanpars Engineering and Construction Company to cooperate on developing Balaroud oil field.

During a ceremony in presence of Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh where 13 oil contracts were signed, NIDC, IOOC and Jahanpars signed a contract to jointly develop Balaroud oil field.

13 contracts worth roughly €1.5 billion with 14 local firms to enhance and maintain oil production.

According to reports, development of Balaroud oil field in north of Khouzestan Province will be carried out in two levels and in two parts of well drilling, transfer of water and installing rigs and offering technical and engineering drilling services.

In this contract which is valued at over 41m euros, NIDC is in charge of drilling six developmental wells by using two heavy rigs and finishing it in a period of 24 months. In the contract it has been also mentioned that in order to accelerate the project, NIDC may employ one more drilling machine, too.

Before this contract, in line with e development project of 28 reservoirs in the offshore oil areas, NIDC had taken charge of two projects. Implementation of project of developing Gachsaran oil field in the IOOC's range of operation and developing Naft Shahr oil field in the range of operation of Iranian Central Oil Fields Company are the projects which are underway and progressing well.

Iran Eyes 3-Fold Surge in Cigarette Production

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The Iranian Tobacco Company (ITC) has extensive plans to boost output for cigarettes, shows a report, as demand for local brands surge amid lower imports and tighter controls on smuggling.

In a Monday report, the ISNA news agency cited figures by the ITC showing that output in factories operated by the company in five Iranian provinces would increase by 200 percent at the end of the current calendar year ending March 2021.

The report said that a new cigarette production line that has been idle for three years in the capital Tehran would resume operations soon, allowing the ITC to further boost output.

It said another idle cigarette factory located in the central Iranian province of Isfahan went on line in early July with production currently reaching 200,000 packs of 20 each day.

ITC factories had produced a total of 120 million

packs of 20 of cigarettes in the four-month period ending July 21, said the report, adding that sales had surged by 37 and 40 percent in volume and value terms, respectively, compared to the same period last year.

The increased output comes as smokers in Iran have developed a preference for local brands amid lower imports and heavier taxation and controls on trafficking of foreign brands.

Outside Tehran, the ITC operates plants in Gilan, Mazandaran, Golestan and West Azerbaijan, all provinces with sizable tobacco farming.

The government-owned company, founded in 1937, has 5,000 staff members and works with 6,000 tobacco farmers in Iran.

A senior ITC official said in June that the company is capable of supplying at least half of the local demand for cigarettes, which is nearly 4 billion packs of 20 per year, according to figures provided by the government.

Value of Flowers, Ornamental Plants' Exports Revealed

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Iran exported more than 2,350 tons of flowers and ornamental plants worth \$5.33 million to 23 countries during the first three months of the current Iranian year (March 20-June 20, 2020), Spokesman for Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) Rouhollah Latifi said.

According to Latifi, Iran exported 1,540 tons of flowers and ornamental plants worth \$2.38 million to Iraq during three months.

Latifi added that the next places in Iran's exports of flowers and ornamental plants are held by Vietnam with 15 tons and the Netherlands with 5 tons.

The official said that the exported products were mainly various trees (incl. fruit trees), flower buds, dried flowers, and so on.

"Iran imported 28 tons of flowers and ornamental plants worth more than \$121,000 and from three countries, including Turkey, Germany and the Netherlands in three months," he said.

Latifi emphasized that Iran produces about 3 billion flowers and ornamental plants a year. Only 200 million of them are exported. Therefore, the value of Iran's exports in this area is estimated at about \$200 million.



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CALL FOR PUBLIC TENDER (FIRST/SECOND PUBLISH) ONE - STAGES (SEMI COMPRESSED) TENDER

Subject of Tender: **Parts For Caterpillar Equipment**

Tender descriptions:

The Tender holder	Registration No. through national electronic tendering system	Tender No. /Indent No.	Estimated value (Rial)
National Iranian Drilling Company	14,573,352	Tender No. :FP/09-99/064 Indent No.:01-27-9847004	147,054,500,000

Qualitative evaluation of tenderers

Method	Based on minimum scoring (50 Points) made in award criterion reflected in the tenderers pre-qualification forms.
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Purchasing & Submitting

Tender Document Distribution by Company	The distribution of the documents will be started one day after the publishing of second advertisement and ended on the following tenth day thereof.	
	Distribution Place	Hall No.:113, 1thfloor, Foreign Procurement Dept., National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN – Tel : 061 34148601
Documents Receiving Method	Submitting Method	Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt in the amount of 190,000 Iranian Rials under account number 4001114004020491 (Shaba No. IR. 520100004001114004020491) in name of "NIDC Incomes Centralized Fund" issued by I.R. of Iran Central Bank. Avoid any payment other than the bank method (in person) and also provide a deposit. Submitting format Request for the purpose of receiving Tender Documents.
	Closing date	14 Days after the last time of Purchasing.
Documents Receiving Method	Address	Hall No. 107, 1stfloor, Tender Committee, Operation building, National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN.Tel: +98-61-34148580 +98-61-34148569

Tender Guarantee

Value of guarantee	5,642,000,000 Rial / 25,494 Euro
Type of guarantee	ü Bank guarantees or guarantees issued by non-bank institutions that obtain activity license from the central bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran. ü Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt under account number 4001114006376636 (Shaba No. IR. 350100004001114006376636) in name of "NIDC" saving account" by the central bank of Islamic Republic of Iran.
Duration of credit & quotation	Tender Guarantee and quotation should be valid for 90 days and extendable maximum for one time in initial validity duration.

According to the meeting-minutes No: 138/665/98 dated: 1398-04-03 of deputy of research and technology dept. of oil ministry all the companies and participations should enlist and in "SETAD SAMANE" maximum till 1399-05-31 it is necessary for all.

(Foreign Procurement Dept.)

More of this & other tenders are accessible by click on: www.nidc.ir http://sapp.ir/nidc_pr



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marble fl
Fully Furn

Shanon (adviser)

Tajrish Villa (\$4000)
1000sq.m
5bdrs, S/p
S, J, balcony
green yard
Fully Furn

Parsian

Farmanieh (\$2600) 240sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p, S, J, & F.F
Gheitarieh (\$2200) 220sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p, S, J, & F.F
Zaferanieh (\$3000) 350sq.m, 4bdrs, S/p, S, J, & F.F
Fereshteh (\$1800) 180sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p, S, J, & F.F

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Self-Exiled Former Spanish king in UAE

MADRID (Dispatches) - Juan Carlos, the former king of Spain who went into exile this month in the face of corruption allegations, is in the United Arab Emirates, the royal palace said on Monday, ending the mystery on his whereabouts.

The 82-year-old “travelled to the United Arab Emirates on August 3 and he remains there”, a spokesman said without giving further details.

In a surprise move, Juan Carlos announced on August 3 that he was leaving Spain to prevent his personal affairs from undermining his son King Felipe VI's reign, but did not say where he would be going.



Vietnamese Fisherman Killed In Clash With Coast Guard

KUALA LUMPUR (Reuters) - Malaysia said on Monday that a Vietnamese fisherman died from gunshot wounds in a confrontation after its coast guard sought to inspect two boats they believed were illegally fishing.

In a statement, the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency said 19 Vietnamese fishermen had been on board the boats, accusing them of pelting the enforcement ship with hard objects, as well as flammable items, before eventually ramming it.

The statement said the incident took place in waters off Kelantan state and that coast guard officers onboard had responded by firing in self-defence, wounding one Vietnamese fisherman who later died.



Lukashenko Offers to Hand Over Power After Referendum



MINSK (Reuters) - Alexander Lukashenko, the leader of Belarus, said on Monday he would be ready to hold new elections and hand over power after a constitutional referendum, an attempt to pacify mass protests and strikes that pose the biggest challenge yet to his rule.

He made the offer, which he insisted would not be delivered on while he was under pressure from protesters, after exiled opposition politician Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya said she was willing to lead the country.

In a sign of his growing vulnerability, Lukashenko faced heckling and chants of “step down” during a speech to workers at one of the large state-run factories that are the pride of his Soviet-style economic model and core support base.

He faces the threat of European Union sanctions after a bloody crackdown on protests following what demonstrators say was his rigged re-election victory last week. He denies losing, citing official results that gave him just over 80% of the vote. The EU is also preparing to send a message to Russia not to meddle, after Moscow told Lukashenko it was ready to provide military help in the event of an external threat. Russia is watching closely as Belarus hosts pipelines that carry Russian energy exports to the West and is viewed by Moscow as a buffer zone against NATO. Lukashenko and Russian President Vladimir Putin spoke twice this weekend.

A burly former Soviet collective farm manager, Lukashenko used blunt language while speaking to workers on Monday. “We’ve held elections,” he said. “Until you’ve killed me there won’t be any new elections.” But he offered to change the constitution, an apparent concession that seems unlikely to satisfy protesters who say it’s something he has spoken about before.

“We’ll put the changes to a referendum, and I’ll hand over my constitutional powers. But not under pressure or because of the street,” Lukashenko said, in remarks quoted by the official Belta news agency.

“Yes, I’m not a saint. You know my harsh side. I’m not eternal. But if you drag down the first president you’ll drag down neighboring countries and all the rest.” He also said people could hold parliamentary and presidential elections after the referendum if that was what they wanted.

Speaking in a video address from Lithuania, opposition politician Tsikhanouskaya urged security and law enforcement officers to switch sides.

“I am ready to take responsibility and act as a national leader during this period,” Tsikhanouskaya said.

Her video was released as hundreds of employees from the state broadcaster BT went on strike, as several presenters and staff publicly resigned in solidarity with the protesters. The strike came as protests spread to those normally seen as loyal to the 65-year-old president. Some police, a sitting ambassador, prominent athletes and a former prime minister have also voiced solidarity with the protesters.

The state broadcaster showed re-runs on Monday morning before issuing a fresh news bulletin. Videos on social media suggested BT had at one point aired footage of an empty studio with white sofas, and music playing.

Pakistani Army Chief Visits Saudi Arabia

ISLAMABAD (Reuters) - Pakistan’s army chief visited Saudi Arabia on Monday in an effort to ease a row between the two countries over policy towards the disputed region of Kashmir.

The argument, brought on by Pakistani demands for Saudi Arabia to take a firmer line against India’s behavior in Kashmir, has threatened Riyadh’s financial lifeline to Islamabad.

General Qamar Javed Bajwa’s visit was “primarily military-affairs oriented,” the Pakistani army spokesman said. But Pakistani military and government officials told Reuters Bajwa would try to calm a situation that if not reversed could badly hurt Pakistan’s central bank foreign reserves.

The Saudi Chief of General Staff Maj. Gen. Fayyad bin Hammad Al-Ruwaili received Bajwa in Riyadh on Monday, the Saudi ministry of defense said in a statement on its website.



Start of Afghan Talks Uncertain as Prisoner Release Stalls

KABUL (AFP) - Afghan authorities and the Taliban have hit an impasse over the planned release of hundreds of insurgents after opposition from some foreign governments, officials said Monday, apparently stalling peace talks.

The negotiations were expected to begin within days after prominent Afghans met in Kabul on August 9 and approved the release of 400 Taliban prisoners -- including many involved in deadly attacks -- removing a crucial precondition to talks.

While Afghan authorities freed 80 Taliban prisoners on Thursday, there have been no further releases since then. “There is no plan to release any prisoner today also,” an official with the country’s National Security Council told AFP on Monday.

The delay has “something to do with some countries’ concerns about some people in the list,” Ghulam Farooq Majroh, a member of the Afghan negotiating team, told AFP.

Another NSC official said some “international partners have reservations” about releasing the prisoners. The NSC officials and Majroh did not identify the countries, but Paris and Canberra have objected to the release of several insurgents accused of killing French and Australian nationals and soldiers.

Bettina Goislar, a French employee of the UN’s refugee agency, was murdered by two Taliban militants in 2003, and a former Afghan soldier killed five French troops and injured 13 others in 2012 in Kapisa province.

France is “firmly opposed to the liberation of individuals sentenced for crimes against French nationals, especially soldiers and humanitarian workers,” the foreign ministry said Saturday. “We have consequently asked Afghan authorities not to proceed with the liberation of these terrorists.” Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison last week said he had lobbied against the release of a former Afghan army soldier who went rogue and killed three Australian partners.

President Ashraf Ghani himself has warned that the 400 militants were a “danger to the world”. The Taliban have said they are willing to begin peace talks “within a week” after all 400 prisoners are freed, and blamed Kabul for delaying the negotiations.

OPEC+ Compliance With Oil Output Cuts in July Around 97%

LONDON (Reuters) - Compliance with OPEC+ oil output cuts is seen at around 97% in July, two OPEC+ sources told Reuters on Monday, two days ahead of a meeting of key OPEC+ producers to review adherence with their production pact as demand slowly recovers.

The figure has not yet been finalised by a technical panel of key OPEC and non-OPEC producers, known as the JTC, which is meeting later on Monday, the sources said.

A ministerial OPEC+ monitoring committee, known as the JMMC, is meeting on Wednesday to review the oil market and compliance with the global oil supply reduction pact.

The JMMC advises the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies including Russia, a group known as OPEC+.

OPEC+ sources said they expect no change in the current production agreement and would rather

focus on adherence by countries such as Iraq, Nigeria and Kazakhstan who have pledged to improve their compliance.

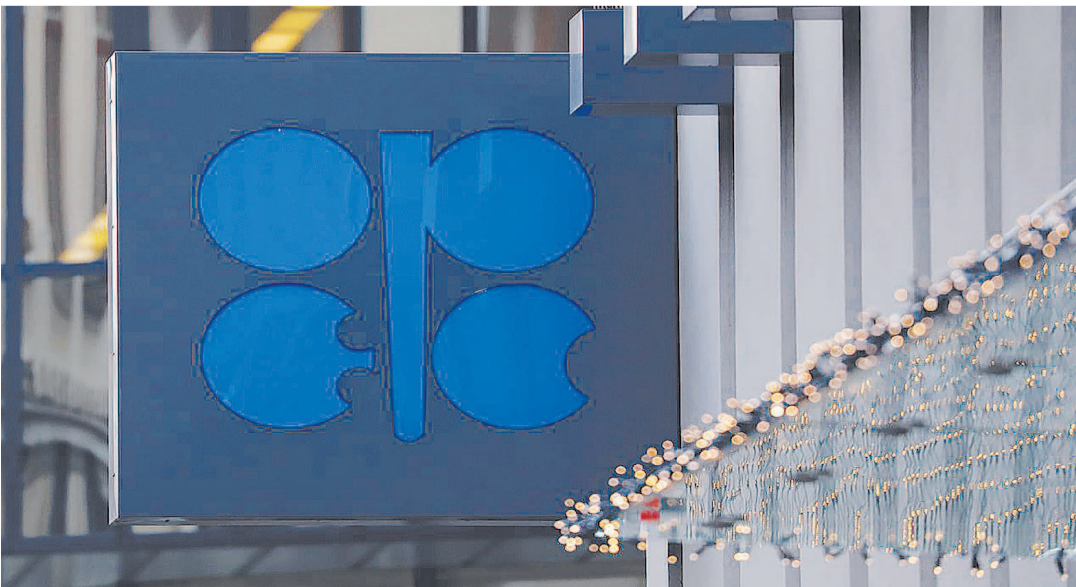
In August, OPEC+ eased its agreed cuts to 7.7 million barrels per day (bpd) from 9.7 million bpd previously.

“There is no change,” one of the sources said.

Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak said last week there have been no additional proposals to change the deal.

OPEC oil output has risen by over 1 million bpd in July, according to a Reuters survey, as Saudi Arabia and other Persian Gulf members ended their voluntary extra supply curbs on top of the OPEC+ deal while other members made limited progress on compliance.

OPEC+ has been cutting output to tackle the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic which has hit oil demand.



German FM Warns of Deceptive Calm in Libya

TRIPOLI (AFP) - German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas, visiting war-torn Libya’s capital Monday, warned of a “deceptive calm” since fighting stalled around Sirte, the central hometown of fallen dictator Moamer Kadhafi.

Outside powers are “continuing to massively arm the country,” Maas, whose government has tried to broker peace in Libya, said during a surprise visit to the North African country.

“In Libya at the moment we are observing a deceptive calm,” he said in Tripoli, seat of the UN-recognised Government of National Accord (GNA). Libya has been in chaos since a Western-backed uprising toppled Kadhafi in 2011, and has become a major departure point for desperate migrants trying to reach Europe with the help of traffickers. Eastern-based military commander Khalifa Haftar launched an offensive in April 2019 to seize Tripoli.

After 14 months of fierce fighting, Turkish-backed pro-GNA forces expelled Haftar’s troops from much of western Libya and pushed them eastwards to Sirte, a gateway to Libya’s rich oil fields and export terminals.

While the GNA has also been supported by Qatar, Haftar has had the backing of the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Russia.

Now, said Maas, “both sides and their international allies are continuing to massively arm the country and holding firm to their preconditions for a ceasefire”.

Maas urged them to find ways out of “this very dangerous situation” and backed a UN proposal to establish a demilitarised zone around Sirte, some 450 kilometres (280 miles) east of Tripoli. He said he had discussed this idea with Prime Minister Fayez al-Sarraj and Interior Minister Fathi Bachagha. According to Turkish media reports, Turkish Defence Minister Hulusi Akar was also in Tripoli on Monday.

Speaking at a joint press conference, Maas’ GNA counterpart Mohamad Taher Siala objected to the European Union’s naval mission Irini, which aims to enforce a UN arms embargo on Libya. He said it deprives the GNA of military aid “to counter the aggression” of Haftar but “does not monitor the arrival of arms and mercenaries by air, sea and land via Egypt” in support of Haftar.



Iran's Tourist Arrivals Grow

SHAHROUD (IRNA) - Minister of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Ali Asghar Mounesan said that a record number of 8 million tourists visited Iran during the first 10 months of the past Iranian calendar year which ended March 20, 2020.

Mounesan made the remarks on Monday night during a visit to Shahroud city in Semnan province. He said the number stood at 4.5 million three years ago. He referred to the COVID19 outbreak as a major factor that caused the decline of the tourism industry in the country.



Japan's Record Economic Plunge Wipes Out Abe Era Gains

TOKYO (Reuters) - Japan was hit by its biggest economic slump on record in the second quarter as the coronavirus pandemic emptied shopping malls and crushed demand for cars and other exports, bolstering the case for bolder policy action to prevent a deeper recession.

The third straight quarter of declines knocked the size of real gross domestic product (GDP) to decade-low levels, wiping out the benefits brought by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's "Abenomics" stimulus policies deployed in late 2012.

While the economy is emerging from the doldrums after lockdowns were lifted in late May, many analysts expect any rebound in the current quarter to be modest as a renewed rise in infections keep consumers' purse-strings tight.

"The big decline can be explained by the decrease in consumption and exports," said Takeshi Minami, chief economist at Norinchukin Research Institute.

"I expect growth to turn positive in the July-September quarter. But globally, the rebound is sluggish everywhere except for China."

The world's third-largest economy shrank an annualised 27.8% in April-June, government data showed on Monday, marking the biggest decline since comparable data became available in 1980 and slightly off a 27.2% fall forecast in a Reuters poll of analysts.

While the contraction was smaller than a 32.9% decrease in the United States, it was much bigger than a 17.8% fall in Japan in the first quarter of 2009, when the Lehman Brothers collapse jolted global financial markets.

The size of Japan's real GDP shrank to 485 trillion yen, the lowest since April-June 2011, when Japan was still suffering from two decades of deflation and economic stagnation.

Japanese stocks fell on Monday by the most in two weeks and yields on most government bonds fell on the weak GDP data.

Elsewhere in the region, Thailand reported its biggest economic decline since the Asian financial crisis of 1998.

Underlying Japan's dismal reading was private consumption, which plunged a record 8.2% as lock-down measures to prevent the spread of the virus kept consumers at home.

External demand - or exports minus imports - shaved a record 3.0 percentage point off GDP, as overseas shipments tumbled 18.5%, with auto exports hit particularly hard.

Falling global vehicle sales have hurt automakers like Mazda Motor Corp (7261.T)



and Nissan Motor Co (7201.T), among the biggest drivers of Japan's economy.

Capital expenditure declined 1.5% in the second quarter, less than a forecast 4.2% fall, as solid software investment made up for weak spending in other sectors.

Economy Minister Yasutoshi Nishimura conceded the GDP readings were "pretty severe," but pointed to some bright spots such as a recent pickup in consumption.

However, some analysts warn that companies could cut jobs and spending if a resurgence in infections and soft global demand continue to hurt their bottom line.

Renewed U.S.-China tensions may also weigh on the fragile recovery. About 90% of economists surveyed by Reuters expect the conflict to affect Japan's economy.

"Demand for business investment is expected to fall due to worsening corporate profits and risk of the coronavirus spreading," said Saisuke Sakai, senior economist at Mizuho Research institute.

"There is a chance economic activity may stagnate if major nations adopt lockdown measures again, or Japan re-issues a state of emergency," he said.

U.S. Tightening Restrictions On Huawei Access to Technology, Chips



WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The Trump administration announced on Monday it will further tighten restrictions on Huawei Technologies Co, aimed at cracking down on its access to commercially available chips.

The U.S. Commerce Department actions, first reported by Reuters, will expand restrictions announced in May aimed at preventing the Chinese telecommunications giant from obtaining semiconductors without a special license - including chips made by foreign firms that have been developed or produced with U.S. software or technology.

The administration will also add 38 Huawei affiliates in 21 countries to the U.S. government's economic blacklist, the sources said, raising the total to 152 affiliates since Huawei was first added in May 2019.

Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross told Fox Business the restrictions on Huawei-designed chips imposed in May "led them to do some evasive measures. They were going through third parties," Ross said. "The new rule makes it clear that any use of American software or American fabrication equipment is banned and requires a license."

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the rule change "will prevent Huawei from circumventing U.S. law through alternative chip production and provision of off-the-shelf chips." He added in a statement "Huawei has continuously tried to evade" U.S. restrictions imposed in May.

Huawei did not immediately comment.

With U.S.-China relations at their worst in decades, Washington is pushing governments around to world to squeeze Huawei out, arguing it would hand over data to the Chinese government for spying. Huawei denies it spies for China. The new actions, effective immediately, should prevent Huawei's attempts to circumvent U.S. export controls, Commerce said.

It "makes clear that we're covering off-the-shelf designs that Huawei may be seeking to purchase from a third-party design house," one Commerce Department official told Reuters. A new separate rule requires companies on the economic blacklist to obtain a license when a company like Huawei on the list acts "as a purchaser, intermediate consignee, ultimate consignee, or end user."

The department also confirmed it will not extend a temporary general license that expired Friday for users of Huawei devices and telecommunication providers. Parties must now submit license applications for transactions previously authorized.

Thailand Suffers Biggest Economic Fall Since 1998

BANGKOK (Dispatches) - Thailand's economy suffered its biggest annual contraction since the Asian financial crisis in the second quarter due to the fallout of the coronavirus, prompting the government to slash its GDP forecast for the year and announce more stimulus.

Data from the state planning agency showed a 100 per cent fall in foreign tourism dealt the biggest blow to Southeast Asia's second-largest economy, while the coronavirus and measures to curb it also hit consumption, private investment and exports.

New Deputy Prime Minister Supattana Pongthorn told a media conference the government would announce more stimulus this month, "to support the economy and all groups of affected people," adding these would be discussed at a Aug 19 meeting.

The data, which also showed a record contraction quarter-on-quarter, represents another headache for the government, also facing its biggest anti-government protests since the 2014 coup.

"Today's economic release underscores the collapse of aggregate demand, both externally and internally," said Kobsidthi Silpachai, head of capital markets research of Kasikornbank.

"Recovery will be lengthy as the shock to the demand and

supply side has been the most severe in living memory."

Thailand's economy, which is heavily reliant on tourism and exports, shrank 12.2 per cent in the second quarter from a year earlier after a revised 2.0 per cent fall in the March quarter. It fell a record 9.7 per cent on the quarter, on a seasonally adjusted basis.

Economists in a Reuters poll had forecast the economy would shrink 13.3 per cent year-on-year and fall 11.4 per cent quarter-on-quarter.

The National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC) cut its gross domestic product forecast for the year, expecting the economy to fall 7.3 per cent-7.8 per cent in 2020, having previously forecast a 5 per cent-6 per cent slump. The economy saw a record annual contraction of 7.6 per cent in 1998.

While Thailand has lifted most curbs after seeing no local transmission of the coronavirus for over 80 days, its economy continues to suffer from tepid global demand and an ongoing ban on foreign visitor numbers.

On Monday, the NESDC said it expected only 6.7 million foreign tourists to come to Thailand this year after last year's record 39.8 million and said there were no foreign tourists in the second quarter.

Meanwhile, NESDC expected a 10 per cent fall in exports in 2020, having previously forecast an 8 per cent decline.



Foreign Patent Offices Register 110 of Iran's Inventions

TEHRAN (MNA) - Iran Patent Center announced that as many as 110 inventions by Iranian scientists have been granted patents by authentic foreign patent offices, according to Vice Presidency for Science and Technology.

According to a statement Iran Patent Center at the Vice Presidency of Science and Technology on Monday, as many as 110 applications have so far been granted patents by authentic foreign patent offices, through receiving support from the Center.

According to this center, total received applications from investors all cross Iran reaches 1,856, that so far, out of this number, 302 applications have been approved to be evaluated to receive the Center's support in a bid to contribute to the development of new technologies in the country.

According to the statement, Iran Patent Center has always been on the side of Iranian inventors in applying for reputable foreign patent offices in the European Union, Canada, China, and the United States.

Supporting more than 90% of the Iranian patents and as a result, facilitating the entry of knowledge-based products into global markets, are considered as the achievements of this center.

Central Bank Expects Very Strong German Economic Growth This Summer

BERLIN (Dispatches) - The German central bank said on Monday that Europe's largest economy is likely to grow "very strongly" this summer, after its sharp slump in the first half of the year.

In its monthly report, the Bundesbank said that from today's perspective, the "clear and broad-based recovery in macroeconomic performance which began after the low in April, will continue." The German economy shrunk by a record 10.1% in the second quarter, as lockdowns lifted only at the start of May. GDP is forecast to contract by just over 6% in 2020.

However, the Bundesbank notes that while the economy is improving, it will not catch up to pre-coronavirus levels in the summer, and it will be a way back to normality.

"There is also the big risk of setbacks, in particular with a view to the further course of the pandemic," the central bankers wrote, adding that until there is a vaccine available, some parts of the service sector will remain restricted.

A number of European countries, including Germany, are currently experiencing increased in the number of COVID-19 cases, while others, like the US, are still seeing thousands of new virus cases daily.

Snapback Mechanism...

FROM PAGE 1

This mechanism is applicable for those countries which are still committed to the JCPOA. When Mr. Trump officially signed the pullout of the U.S. from the JCPOA, the meaning of using the snapback mechanism by the U.S. is exactly the same as the behavior of a raging bull which has suffered defeat from the matador.

The bullfighting, which is called "Saint Fermin" and every year it was held on July 6 for seven days in the city of Pamplona in Spain, has precise instructions. According to the instructions and rules of the game, the matador after noticing disappointment and haplessness in the defeated bull should not attack at it or hitting his sword on it because this innocent animal is itself passing on due to fear and disappointment.

In the snapback mechanism exactly the same conditions are raised that if one of the permanent members of the UNSC vetoes, all sanctions will return automatically without re-voting about the previous resolutions of the UNSC against Iran as one of most important one was the Resolution 1929 which had been approved against Iran. In fact in this condition, the JCPOA will be totally destroyed and multilateral sanctions against Iran would return. But regarding the JCPOA, the condition is not so. There has been no obligation left that the Islamic Republic of Iran has not fulfilled in advance, of course, due to the imprudence of the Iranian officials.

So even those countries that still left in the JCPOA feel there is no justification for activating the mechanism leverage, let alone the U.S. which is not today a member of the JCPOA.



Iran Capable of...

FROM PAGE 1

He also pointed to the potentials of the ministry in other sectors, saying, "The Defense Ministry, with the Parliament's cooperation, is also ready to contribute to the non-military economy as well," he added.

General Hatami underlined that the financial support to the ministry can pave the way for achieving modern technologies in the sector and boost the country's might against newly-emerged threats.

Earlier on Sunday, in a ceremony held on the occasion of National Defense Industry Day, Hatami said the Islamic Republic of Iran will export weapons after the arms embargo against the country is lifted.

"Iran will use all capacities to meet its arms requirements, selling and exporting weapons after sanctions removal."

"In fact, the defense industry is the strategic depth of the country, and the science and technology field is the support for the defense industry of the country," he added. Iran has made major breakthroughs in its defense sector and attained self-sufficiency in producing military equipment and hardware despite facing US sanctions and Western economic pressure.

The Islamic Republic says its military power is solely for defensive purposes against enemy threats.

Israel Seeking to...

FROM PAGE 1

"We are certain this agreement will expand the until-now unofficial commercial ties with the UAE and allow the export of additional products, such as medicine, whose country of origin must be clearly marked," said Tomer.

The Palestinian prime minister slams the UAE-Israel normalization pact as total departure from Arab consensus.

Israel companies and their products have faced growing boycotts and bans in countries around the world solely because they have been operating in Palestinian territories designated by the international law as occupied by the Israeli regime. The normalization of ties with the UAE, a development announced on Thursday to huge dismay and criticism of governments and rights advocates, would give a fresh lifeline to the Israeli firms struggling with international bans.

The report by the Calclist estimated that nearly 200 Israeli companies have been exporting products, many of them banned in other countries, to the UAE using third party clients before the normalization of ties.

Brady Claims First WTA Title

LONDON (Reuters) - American Jennifer Brady clinched her first career WTA title on Sunday, defeating Switzerland's Jil Teichmann 6-3 6-4 in the Top Seed Open final.

The hard court, outdoor competition in Lexington, Kentucky, marked the WTA's first tournament in the United States since the coronavirus outbreak forced almost all sport into a long break earlier this year. In the first set, a defensive effort saw Brady save all four break points faced before going on the attack in the second set, winning more than 80% of her first serve points in front of the empty stands.

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Stoke Sign Former Chelsea Midfielder

LONDON (Reuters) - Stoke City have signed former Nigeria and Chelsea midfielder John Obi Mikel on a free transfer, the second tier Championship club said on Monday.

Mikel returns to English football having left Turkish side Trabzonspor by mutual consent in March. The 33-year-old spent 11 seasons at Chelsea, helping the London side win two league titles, three FA Cups and the Champions League. "We're delighted to bring John to the club," Stoke manager Michael O'Neill said in a statement. "His playing career speaks for itself and underlines his calibre as a player."

Djokovic Spotted Training in Desolate Arthur Ashe stadium

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - The great champion and player that he is, Novak Djokovic has not wasted a moment's time before hitting the courts for a practice session at Flushing Meadows. The World No. 1, who left for the United States on Saturday (15th August), started training on Sunday itself in order to get acclimatized to the courts before the beginning of the hardcourt swing.

Djokovic recently confirmed his participation for the singles events at both the Cincinnati Masters and the US Open. And as both events will be taking place at Flushing Meadows, Djokovic grabbed his first opportunity to try and get a feel of the stadium.

Djokovic was seen practicing with compatriot Filip Krajinovic, who recently beat the World No. 1 in an exhibition.

Krajinovic being a high-ranked player would definitely improve the overall quality of Djokovic's training sessions. Secondly, it would also provide the duo a chance to prepare for the doubles event at Cincinnati. As of now, the pair of Novak Djokovic and Filip Krajinovic are on the entry list of the tournament as the 33rd seeds. After a long gap from professional tennis due to the COVID-19 pandemic, playing doubles would likely help Novak Djokovic find his rhythm and form ahead of the US Open.

Djokovic is clearly sparing no effort to win his fourth US Open and 18th Major overall. If he does end up lifting the trophy, it would help him cut the gap to the Grand Slam tallies of Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal, who are both missing from the New York Slam this year.

In the video captured by one of the physios present in the arena, Novak Djokovic could be seen doing service drills under the watchful eyes of Goran Ivanisevic. It is also interesting to note that social-distancing seemed to be



strictly followed by everyone present in the arena.

The ball-boys were at away from the players on the court, while the handful of people who were watching the session were also at a distance from each other. Goran Ivanisevic himself seemed to be mindful of the distance between himself and his ward, both of whom had fallen prey to COVID-19 back in June.

World No. 6 Stefanos Tsitsipas is among the first top players to arrive at Flushing Meadows, and has already hit on court.

The rising player from Greece, who just turned 22, will compete next week at the Western & Southern Open and the U.S. Open, where there will be just three players seeded in front of him: Djokovic, Dominic Thiem and Daniil Medvedev.

Two years ago, Tsitsipas had just had his big breakthrough in Toronto, defeating Thiem, Djokovic and Alexander Zverev to get to the final of the ATP Masters 1000 event. He describes the win against No. 1 Djokovic as among the best of his career.

"I was actually not paying attention that much if I was facing Novak Djokovic or whoever else. I was concentrating on my game," Tsitsipas recently told the ATP tour website. "I knew that if I would start thinking too much, then it wouldn't be good for my game, so I said, 'Keep playing, keep doing what you're doing.' That match point, I couldn't believe it, what had just happened. It was one of the best victories I'd had."

Klopp Might Quit Football Post Liverpool



LONDON (Dispatches) - Jurgen Klopp says he might turn his back on football once his present contract with Premier League champions Liverpool ends in 2024.

The 53-year-old German had wanted to take a year off after he left Borussia Dortmund in 2015 but Liverpool came calling that October asking him to replace Brendan Rodgers.

Since then he has guided them to the Champions League trophy in 2019 and this year ended a 30-year wait for the league title.

However, he told German website Sportbuzzer that taking a year out in 2024 will give him time to reflect on what he wants to do next.

"I will take a year off and ask myself if I miss football," Klopp said.

"If the answer is in the negative, then that will be it for Jurgen Klopp as a coach."

Klopp -- who broke Bayern Munich's stranglehold on the German title winning it with Dortmund two years running (2010/11, 2011/12) -- also revealed what he would miss least about the high-pressure business of football management. "If one day I'm not a coach anymore, there's one thing I won't miss: The brutal tension just before the game," he said.

Halep the Latest To Skip U.S. Open

PARIS (AFP) - World number two Simona Halep joined a growing list of tennis stars when she said on Monday that she would skip the U.S. Open over coronavirus fears.

"After weighing up all the factors involved and with the exceptional circumstances in which we are living, I have decided that I will not travel to New York to play the @usopen," tweeted Halep, the current Wimbledon champion.

"I always said I would put my health at the heart of my decision and I therefore prefer to stay and train in Europe."

The Romanian added: "I know the @usta and @WTA have worked tirelessly to put on a safe event and I wish everyone there a successful tournament."

Halep joins a host of top players who are passing on playing at Flushing Meadows when the next Grand Slam tournament begins on August 31.

Reigning U.S. Open champion Bianca Andreescu of Canada will not play, joining men's 2019 winner Rafael Nadal in skipping the tournament. Also absent from this year's US Open will be Australia's top-ranked Ashleigh Barty, Ukraine's fifth-ranked Elina Svitolina, seventh-rated Kiki Bertens, eighth-ranked Swiss Belinda Bencic -- whom Andreescu beat in the semi-finals last year -- and past winner Svetlana Kuznetsova of Russia.

Man City to Honor Silva With Statue at Etihad Stadium

LONDON (Reuters) - Spanish midfielder David Silva will be honoured with a statue outside the Etihad Stadium in recognition of his 10 trophy-laden seasons at Manchester City, the Premier League club said on Monday.

Silva made his final appearance for City in their 3-1 defeat by Olympique Lyonnais in Saturday's Champions League quarter-final. The 34-year-old helped City win the Premier League four times, the FA Cup twice and the League Cup five times after signing from Valencia in 2010.

Silva, who scored 60 goals in 309 Premier League appearances, also represented City in a club record 70 European matches.

Nishikori Tests Positive for COVID-19



LONDON (Reuters) - Japan's Kei Nishikori said on Sunday he had tested positive for COVID-19 while in Florida - just two weeks ahead of the U.S. Open that begins in New York on Aug. 31.

The 30-year-old former world number four has been staying at the IMG Academy in Bradenton, Florida, and pulled out of the upcoming Western & Southern Open, a warm-up tournament for many before the Grand Slam.

"This morning while still in Florida, I got tested for COVID-19 and tested positive," Nishikori said in a statement. "I will have to pull out of the Cincinnati tournament at this time."

"We were planning to fly to New York tomorrow but will obviously now stay in Florida."

Nishikori added that he had "very little symptoms" and would go into self-isolation.

A number of players have withdrawn from this year's U.S. Open over fears of contracting the coronavirus that has infected more than 5.3 million people in the United States and killed nearly 170,000, according to a Reuters tally.

Defending champion Rafa Nadal and women's world number one Ash Barty are among those who refused to travel, while reigning women's champion Bianca Andreescu pulled out, saying the pandemic had compromised her ability to reach her highest level of form.

Lukaku, Martinez Fire Inter Into Europa League Final



DUSSELDORF (AFP) - Romelu Lukaku and Lautaro Martinez both scored twice as Inter Milan stormed into a first European final in 10 years with a 5-0 thrashing of Shakhtar Donetsk in Dusseldorf.

Danilo D'Ambrosio was also on target for Antonio Conte's men, who will face Sevilla in Friday's final in Cologne.

The Italian giants have endured a lean decade since winning the Champions League in 2010, but closed the gap on Juventus at the top of Serie A to just one point in Conte's first season in charge and are now one win away from a first trophy in nine years.

Martinez and Lukaku's prolific partnership has been the source of much of Inter's success and they took their tally to a combined 54 for the season.

After a slow start, Martinez rose highest to power home Nicolo Barella's cross to open the scoring on 19 minutes.

Shakhtar are one of European football's great survivors as the Ukrainian champions continue to thrive despite not playing a match in their home city of Donetsk for six years due to a war in eastern Ukraine between government forces and Russian-backed separatists.

Luis Castro's men had scored 14 goals in five Europa League games since dropping into the competition from the Champions League, but their talented array of Brazilian forwards barely laid a glove on a characteristically well-organised Conte defence.

Hamilton Driving In a League of His Own



LONDON (Reuters) - Lewis Hamilton is driving in a league of his own as he accelerates towards a record-equaling seventh Formula One championship, according to Mercedes team boss Toto Wolff.

The Briton sealed his fourth win of the season in Spain on Sunday in what looked like a straightforward pole-to-flag cruise, but Wolff said the champion had stood out for the decisions he made.

"At the moment he drives in a league of his own. Totally under control, switching back the engine to save some mileage for races that are more difficult," Wolff told Sky F1 television.

"The most special thing was at the end we were ready to put soft tyres on his car because it was not enough laps left, and it was the logical choice, and he said 'Don't give me the softs, give me the mediums'."

"It was absolutely instinctive understanding."

Team mate Valtteri Bottas, who was third but had hoped to catch Red Bull's Max Verstappen for the one-two, switched to the softer compound and it did not work out.

The Finn, who had lost out to Verstappen at the start, did get the fastest lap but had to settle for the lowest step on the podium. "You can see that lost Valtteri's race. We put the soft on Valtteri, logically you catch up on Verstappen and probably you overtake or at least are in a fight, and the tyre had no grip," said Wolff.

"I think the weakness in the armor today was the start, where he lost some time. But that wasn't the reason why he couldn't overtake Verstappen."