

Iran's Health Ministry Spokeswoman Sima Sadat-Lari Said on Tuesday That 132 More Iranians Have Lost Their Lives to Coronavirus Disease Over the Past 24 Hours Bringing the Total Deaths to 22,542

IRAN NEWS

Iranian Economy Ministry Suggested Modifying the Guarantee Of the LC Agreement Between Iran Banking System and India Export Development Fund Which Lets the Deadline to Be Extended by 2021

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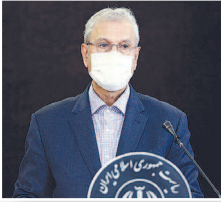
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Leader Denounces Charlie Hebdo's Offensive Cartoon

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has condemned the French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo for reprinting a cartoon that insults Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), describing it as another proof of the Western world's enmity towards Islam.

"The great and unforgivable committed by a French magazine, which insulted the Prophet of Islam (PBUH) once again revealed the enmity and vicious grudge of the Western world's political and cultural apparatus towards Islam and the Muslim community," Ayatollah Khamenei said in a message on Tuesday.

He said the French politicians' resort to "freedom of speech as a pretext for not condemning the great crime is totally rejected, wrong, and demagogic."

"Deeply anti-Islamic policies of Zionists and arrogant governments are behind such hostile moves, which are made every now and then," Ayatollah Khamenei added.

"At this juncture, they may have made such a move to divert the attention of West Asian nations and governments away from the inauspicious plots the US and the Zionist regime have in their minds for the region," he noted.

The Leader called on Islamic nations, especially those in the West Asia, to remain vigilant about the issues of this "sensitive" region, and to never forget the enmities of Western politicians and leaders towards Islam and Muslims.

Iran Calls for Global Campaign to Remove U.S. Sanctions

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Health minister has, in a letter to the World Health Organization (WHO), called for a global campaign to end the U.S. illegal and unilateral sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In a Tuesday letter to WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom, Saeed Namaki said it is time for a global call to lift all sanctions to avoid endangering the people's health.

"I ask you to take the necessary measures to end the unlawful and unilateral U.S. sanctions that have caused the suffering and death of the people of Iran and other nations, and have negative consequences for global health," read his letter.

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Indian Minister in Tehran To Bolster Bilateral Ties



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar yesterday met with Iran's Foreign Minister Javad Zarif in Tehran. Jaishankar had made stopover in Iran as part of his key Moscow visit. Calling the meet "productive", the EAM tweeted, "Discussed strengthening our bilateral cooperation and reviewed regional developments. Thank him for his gracious hospitality."

This is the 2nd time any top Indian minister is visiting Iran within a week. Defence minister Rajnath Singh had visited Iran over the weekend while coming from Russia and meet with Iran's Defence Minister Brigadier General Amir Hatami.

During the meeting Zarif, Jaishankar discussed mutual cooperation and ties in a meeting in Tehran.

In this meeting also the latest regional and global development was reviewed by two top diplomats.

After the meeting, Zarif wrote on his Twitter account, "Pleased to host my Indian counterpart @DrSJaishankar in Tehran for talks today. Discussed expansion of bilateral relations and trade, and exchanged views on important regional issues."

He also tweeted about the meeting, saying "active engagement with our neighborhood is our top priority".

Meanwhile Jaishankar also tweeted, "A productive meeting with FM @JZarif during a stopover in Tehran. Discussed strengthening our bilateral cooperation and reviewed regional developments. Thank him for his gracious hospitality."

The meeting was planned some time ago, when Jaishankar confirmed his participation at the SCO meeting. Defense Minister Rajnath Singh, who had also gone to Moscow last week, had made a stop in Iran on his return.

According to Indian media, China and Iran are on the verge of signing an economic and strategic agreement worth \$400 billion, but India wants to ensure that the Chabahar project in the West Asian country doesn't see any Chinese involvement.

This was among the reasons why Jaishankar, who was travelling to Moscow Tuesday for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization's foreign ministers' meeting, made a stopover in Iran's capital Tehran to meet his counterpart Zarif.

The China-Iran agreement, which will overshadow the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, is set to include a major port development project on the Strait of Hormuz. India is concerned that the deal is set to be signed at a time when it hasn't been able to complete the Chabahar Port project due to the stringent American sanctions imposed on Iran, diplomatic sources have said.

Expanding Ties Between Iran, Turkey Only Way to Foil Plots

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN -President Hassan Rouhani yesterday referred to Iran and Turkey as two major regional powers and noted that expanding bilateral ties is the only way to foil conspiracies.

Addressing his counterpart via videoconference in the Sixth Meeting of Supreme Council of Strategic Relations between Iran and Turkey on Tuesday, Rouhani said, "I am very pleased to have another opportunity with you and your colleagues to discuss expanding cooperation between the countries."

He further expressed sympathy for the Turkish people who were infected by the COVID-19 and wished them a speedy recovery.

He went on to say that relations between the two countries have been founded on a very solid foundation throughout history.

"Fortunately, the borders between Iran and Turkey represent peace and friendship, and the two governments, especially in the last seven years, have been trying to develop bilateral relations and regional and international cooperation," he added.

"The two countries are two major powers in the region, and there have always been hostilities against them. Strengthening friendly relations between the two countries is the only way to overcome the conspiracies," he underlined.

The Sixth Meeting of Supreme Council of Strategic Relations between Iran and Turkey kicked off by speeches of Iranian president and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

The two neighboring countries are determined to deepen the strategic relations between the two countries in all areas of mutual concerns especially in the trade and economic fields. Exploring avenues for expanding and developing bilateral cooperation especially in the fight against the novel coronavirus disease, also known as COVID-19, and its effects on joint cooperation were among some topics that were to be discussed in this meeting

ViewPoint

By: Hamid Reza Naghashian



God's Promise: Yemen Is Winner of War

Saudi Arabia's logic behind aggression to Yemen and massacre of innocent children and the young and the old was, is and will nothing but savagery and it will shortly pay heavy price for this horrible crime that like it has not been seen, in over 100 years, in the history of Saudi Kingdom.

All evidences are nearly indicator of this point that this devastating war will end in favor of Yemeni Muslims and essentially the Resistance Front, and international legal actions will be taken against this war-mongering savage dynasty.

That Saudi Family in its statements dictate its will on brave and zealous Yemenis with commanding position in order that the Southern Transitional Council which is itself lackey of the Saudi-led coalition forces could desist autonomous governing and act in accordance with the policies of the central government favored by Saudi Arabia as Saudis even appoint the governor for Aden and the favorite prime minister forms government in South and North, had once usage when Yemenis had no upper hand in holding maneuver of power. But today the condition is totally different because Spokesman for the Yemeni Armed Forces Brigadier General Yahya Saree on Sunday and in a tweet announced readiness of this country's drone squad or carrying out operation against important targets in depth of Saudi Arabia. He wrote, "The Yemeni army's drones struck military positions and sensitive targets at Abha International Airport in southern Saudi Arabia with high precision." He termed this operation "with high precision", and added the in Sunday night's operation, the attacks were launched in response to the Saudi-led coalition's increased airstrikes against the Yemeni nation and the continued siege on the country.

Pro-war media claim that in recent weeks the Saudi-led coalition forces have launched several air attacks in the north-west provinces and Sanaa Province which are in control of the Yemeni National Salvation Government and during those attacks, dozens of civilians have been killed or wounded.

Saudi Arabia and the UAE have waged a war on Yemen and its revolution since March 26, 2015 and has carried out the most fierce air attacks against this country and have killed thousands of defenseless civilians and children.

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U.S. Has No Chance to Launch Trigger Mechanism Against Iran

MOSCOW (IRNA) - Russia's permanent representative to the Vienna-based international organizations Mikhail Ulyanov said on Monday that the U.S. has no chance of launching trigger mechanism and restoring sanctions on Iran.

Talking to IRNA, he said that almost all members of the Security Council have explicitly announced that the U.S. cannot be considered a member of the JCPOA.

Therefore, their efforts to operate trigger mechanism are legally worthless, he reiterated, saying that the U.S. is trying to portray the situation as if the trigger mechanism has already begun and time is running out.

It seems that they will announce on September 20 that the deadline has expired and all previous sanctions on Iran will be re-imposed. But this is their national interpretation, Russian official said.

Asked about the level of cooperation between Iran and IAEA, Ulyanov said that since the implementation of JCPOA, the entity has hailed high cooperation by Iran in its annual reports.

Tehran acts transparently and has full cooperation with the IAEA, he reiterated.



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Runoff Parliamentary Polls to Be Held on Sep 11

TEHRAN (IP) - Iran is scheduled to hold the runoff parliamentary elections in nine provinces on September 11 in full compliance with the Covid-19 health protocols.

On Monday, Esmail Mousavi, spokesman for Iran's Elections Headquarters, said that the polling will be held in the provinces of East Azerbaijan, Isfahan, Ilam, Alborz, Zanjan, Khuzestan, Kurdistan, Kermanshah, and Golestan, reports Xinhua news agency.

Mousavi urged the voters to wear face masks and gloves while inside the polling stations which will be disinfected on the eve of the election.

Tehran Resolved to Interact With World To Defy Washington

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

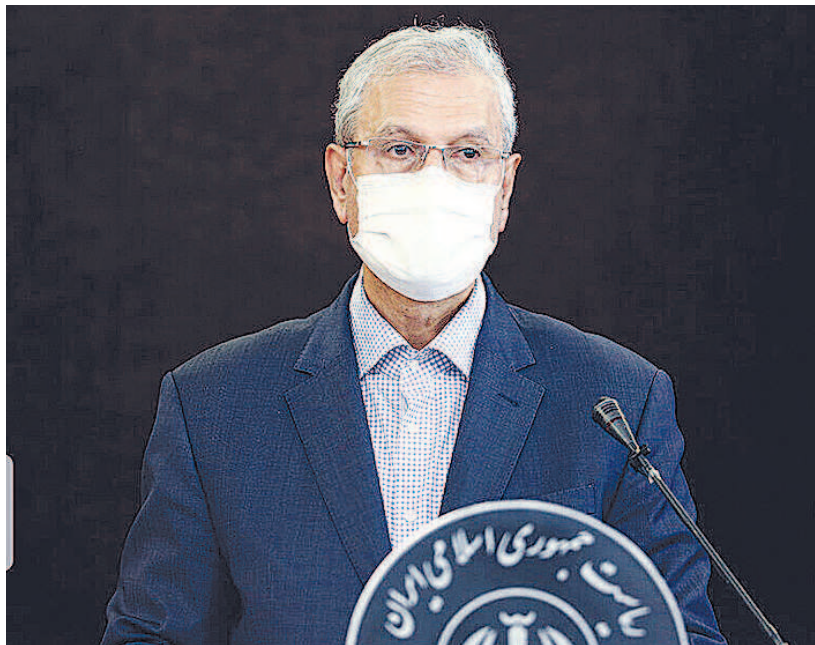
TEHRAN – Government Spokesman reaffirmed Tehran's determination to work with all countries and international organizations to protect the rule of law against the US government's threats and law-breaking.

Speaking at a press conference on Tuesday, Ali Rabiee said the recent visits to Iran by the IAEA director general and a Swiss delegation mark a new stage in the promotion of Iran's constructive international interaction.

Regardless of Washington's threats and meaningless shows, Iran is resolved to continue interaction with all countries and international organizations with respect and goodwill in order to defend the rule of law and common norms alongside other nations in defiance of the unprecedented American lawlessness, he added.

The spokesman said an increase in Iran's diplomatic activities indicates the U.S. failure in carrying out the destructive plots that are aimed at ruining the JCPOA, multilateralism, and international regulations.

Apart from the constant efforts to build trust as the basis of constructive and effective foreign relations, Iran is pushing to enhance trade ties and remove the obstacles to economic cooperation with the other countries in a new round of active diplomacy, he added.



He further said that Iran is determined to continue cooperating with global states and organizations based on respect and good intention, adding that recently the IAEA officials and European delegations have visited Iran that was indicative of a new phase concerning the development of international collaboration.

The diplomatic relations indicate that the United States has failed in advancing destructive plans that were pursuing the goal of ruining the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and undermining multilateralism and international laws, he noted.

The official further noted that Iran will defend the international regulations against the unprecedented bullying in the world.

Iran-Turkmenistan-Kazakhstan Railway; Symbol of Friendship

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The Kazakh Foreign Ministry described the Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran railway as a symbol of friendship between the three countries in the region and a new opportunity to further develop international cooperation.

Kazakhstan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated in a statement on Monday that this railway is strategically important for the revitalization of the Great Silk Road, the development of mutual trade between Central Asia countries and the Caspian region, and connects the north to the south and the east to the west.

Construction of the Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran railway began in 2009 and was inaugurated in 2014 with the presence of the Presidents of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan.

Iran Supports Fair Position of Azerbaijan On Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Our friendly and good-neighborly relations are a special relationship that no third force can harm, the newly appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Iran Seyyed Abbas Mousavi said presenting his credentials to President Ilham Aliyev.

Ambassador noted that Iran supports the fair position and just cause of Azerbaijan on the issue of the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

"We believe that this conflict must be resolved within the framework of international laws, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Azerbaijan," Mousavi said.

The conflict between the two South Caucasus countries began in 1988 when Armenia made territorial claims against Azerbaijan. As a result of the ensuing war, Armenian armed forces occupied 20 percent of Azerbaijan, including the Nagorno-Karabakh region and seven surrounding districts.

The 1994 ceasefire agreement was followed by peace negotiations. Armenia has not yet implemented four UN Security Council resolutions on the withdrawal of its armed forces from Nagorno Karabakh and the surrounding districts.

Bill on Transfer of Convicts Between Iran, Russia Approved

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission Spokesman said that the bill of agreement on the transfer of convicts between the Iranian and Russian governments was approved at this Commission.

Abolfazl Amouei said on Tuesday that the Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission approved the bill of agreement on the transfer of convicts between the Iranian and Russian governments.

He added that the bill of amending the agreement between the Iranian and Russian governments to assist in civil and criminal cases was approved as well.

The bill of agreement on cooperation between Iranian and Serbian governments in the field of plant protection and quarantine was approved at this meeting, Amouei said.

The bills will next be discussed in a session of the Parliament and if approved will be studied by the Guardians Council.

Countering U.S. Sanctions Feasible Via "Club of Sanctioned"



TEHRAN (MNA) – Chairman of Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission said that confronting unilateral U.S. sanctions through the "Club of Sanctioned" will unite countries against the Global Arrogance.

Mojtaba Zonnour made the remarks on Tue. in his meeting with the Ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to the Islamic Republic of Iran Han Sung-o.

In this meeting, Zonnour pointed to the significance of expansion and development of friendly ties between Islamic Republic Iran and North Korea in various fields especially parliamentary ties and emphasized, "Strengthening parliamentary ties between the two countries especially Parliamentary Friendship Groups will bolster mutual and friendly relations and cooperating in various fields."

Political and economic relations between Iran and North Korea are on the right track and the Iranian Parliament emphasizes expansion and development of relations in various fields, especially parliamentary ties, Zonnour added.

Elsewhere in his remarks, he proposed the establishment of "Club of Sanctioned" against unilateral US sanctions and added that countering the U.S. unilateralism through "Club of Sanctioned" will unite countries against the Global Arrogance.

Creating crisis by U.S. in the region and imposing new sanctions against Islamic Republic of Iran and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea have led to a decline in economic and trade exchanges between the two countries, he said and added, "Under such circumstances, the two countries of Iran and North Korea need to broaden and enhance their economic relations in different ways."

For his part, Ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to Iran pointed to the joint political and social commonalities between the two countries and called for taking advantage of existing opportunities and capacities in bilateral relations especially parliamentary ties for the expansion of interactions and exchanges.

North Korea attaches great importance for its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, he said, adding, "All-out development of relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran is of paramount importance in North Korea's foreign policy."

U.S. age-old enmity with the Islamic Republic of Iran and North Korea requires broadening bilateral cooperation between the two countries, he stressed.

He termed interactions of parliamentary friendship group between Iran and North Korea as "important" and stated, "Interaction and cooperation of parliamentary delegations can help better understand the two countries and is necessary for the expansion of economic, cultural and political activities."

Europeans Urged to Counter U.S. Unilateralism

TEHRAN (MNA) – A senior Iranian lawmaker called on the European countries to stand against the United States' hawkish policies against other countries.

The Chairman of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission Mojtaba Zonnour held a meeting with visiting President of the Swiss National Council's Foreign Affairs Committee Tiana Moser and member of the Council of States and President of the Council of States Security Policy Committee Thomas Minder in Tehran on Monday.

During the meeting, Zonnour criticized the repeated violations of the international deals, such as the environmental treaties, the control of weapons of mass destruction and the UN Security Council agreements, by the United States as well as its imposition of unilateral sanctions against other countries.

"It is necessary to stand against the unilateral and illegal actions of the United States in the international arena," he added.

Elsewhere in his remarks, he referred to the century-old amicable ties between Iran and Switzerland, saying, "The development of parliamentary relations between the



Swiss and Iranian parliaments, especially between their National Security and Foreign Policy Commissions, will play an effective role in facilitating and expanding interactions between the two countries."

"Utilizing the capabilities of the two countries will help to further develop mutual economic, scientific, environmental and humanitarian cooperation," he added.

Switzerland's Moser, for her part, also stressed the need to develop cooperation in various fields with Iran, saying, "Increasing parliamentary interactions between the representatives of the Iranian and Swiss parliaments, especially between specialized commissions, is important in expanding cooperation between the two countries."

She also praised the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran in helping to ensure stability and security in the region, including the fight against terrorism, and said the history of regional cooperation between the two countries in humanitarian affairs is a good example for other countries.

She also expressed hope for the realization of her country's efforts to establish and develop a humanitarian financial channel between Tehran and Bern.

Official Highlights Vital Factors for Iran-Pakistan Trade

ISLAMABAD (IRNA) - Senior officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan in a meeting stressed that further increasing working hours at the border and raising the number of border crossings would enhance bilateral trade.

Consul General of Iran in the southwestern city of Quetta Hassan Darweshvand called on the head of Balochistan Customs, Abdul Waheed Marwat, and discussed the ways of increasing cooperation to enhance trade between Pakistan and Iran.

Referring to the importance of bilateral trade for providing employment opportunities in the two countries, the Iranian envoy underlined the need for further increasing working hours at the border and raising the number of border crossings.

Mr. Darweshvand also referred to historical and deep cultural commonalities of Iran and Pakistan and the commitment of the top leadership of the two countries to promote bilateral trade.

The Iranian Consul General said that in view of 300 million population of the two countries and their capabilities, holding joint meetings could help in furthering each other's identities and strengthening ties.

He said electronic communication between the two countries' customs, development of infrastructures such as railways and land routes and the use of sea routes will be very effective for the bilateral ties. The Quetta customs collector Abdul Waheed Marwat said the development of border markets and the entry of freight containers in each other's country were necessary. He said that the federal and provincial authorities were also paying attention to these issues.

He welcomed the development of border markets and the movement of trucks between the two countries.

Referring to the invitation of the Quetta Chamber of Commerce from Zahedan Chamber of Commerce and Industry to hold a preliminary meeting of the Joint Border Trade Committee, Marwat said public and private sectors of Pakistan desire to develop relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Iranian Diplomat Visits Afghanistan to Discuss Peace Process

TEHRAN (IFP) - Ebrahim Taherian, a special assistant to Iran's Foreign Minister in Afghan affairs, recently visited Kabul to hold talks with top Afghan officials and pursue Iran's principled policy towards the country, which is based on the importance of establishing sustainable stability with an emphasis on the country's Constitution.

During the trip, which was made a few days ago, Taherian and the delegation accompanying him met with high-ranking officials of the government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, including President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani, Head of High Council for National Reconciliation Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, and acting Minister of Foreign Affairs Mohammad Haneef Atmar.

He also held talks with National Security Advisor of Afghanistan Hamdullah Mohib, former Afghan president Hamid Karzai, Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan Deborah Lyons as well as some other Afghan political leaders.

In all these meetings, the Iranian diplomat highlighted the national unity of the political forces of Afghanistan and the importance of establishing peace as a prelude to security and measurable sustainable development.

For their part, the high-ranking officials of Afghanistan, especially the president of the country, appreciated the support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the peace process within the framework of the republic and the constitution, and called for the continuation of this strategy and further consultations between the two countries.

In her meeting with Taherian, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Afghanistan Deborah Lyons hailed Iran's support for the UN in assisting the Afghan peace process in the context of intra-Afghan talks, and called for continued reinforcement of the role of regional countries, especially those of Afghanistan's neighbors, in different fields, especially in supporting the Afghan nation and government.



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	13:01
■ Evening (Maghreb)	19:38
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	05:18
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:43

6. Make trial of orphans until they reach the age of marriage; if then ye find sound judgment in them, release their property to them; but consume it not wastefully, nor in haste against their growing up. If the guardian is well-off, Let him claim no remuneration, but if he is poor, let him have for himself what is just and reasonable. When ye release their property to them, take witnesses in their presence: But all-sufficient is Allah in taking account.

Surah 4. Women (6)

Lebanese Ready for Free Trade Agreement With Iran

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Head of Iran Lebanon Joint Commercial Committee says Lebanon is a free country in terms of its economy and it has free trade agreements with Arab League and EU states, and it provides a good ground for Iran to take advantage of it as Lebanon is ready for free trade with Iran.

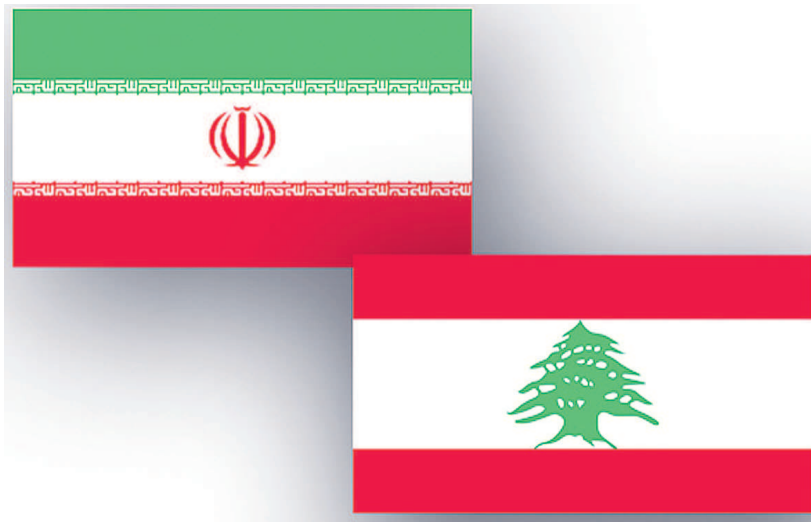
In an interview, Mr. Amir Taghaddosi pointed to recent developments in Lebanon especially the devastating blast in Beirut and economic turmoil in the country, adding that after designation of Mostapha Adib for premiership, it is expected the country to recover from economic hardship.

He added economically, Lebanon is a free country, and imports and exports are done easily and banking transactions with international banks are done with ease. He admitted that in recent months and due to political conflicts and the devastating blast in Beirut, the country has been challenging in all economic sectors and in banking transactions, too.

Taghaddosi noted that Lebanon's national currency has been devalued and U.S. dollar is traded now for 9,000 Lebanese pounds while the price was 1500 pounds for one dollar, saying that now there are several rates for the forex, and several banks are closed due to the rush of people to take their money back.

He said this committee has been set for two years and since its first day it has tried to change the mindset of Lebanese officials towards having economic relations with Iran. He added that Lebanon has free trade agreements with Arab League and EU countries, and it was a good opportunity for Iran to take advantage of it but recent incidents in Lebanon have restricted these opportunities.

He also criticized Iran's Central Bank and government policies on the forex commitment, claiming it has strongly affected Iran's trade with Lebanon.



Taghaddosi said that if Iran wants to be an influential country in Lebanon, it should boost its trade with this country. He further said a country like Turkey, despite having a pale role in Lebanon's political scene, has strong economic interaction with the country.

He added that the committee has identified all problems in way of Iran's trade with Lebanon, noting transportation is the biggest headache. He went on to say that Lebanon has land border with Syria and Israel and currently the land route has been intercepted due to war in Syria and only Tripoli route is open.

Taghaddosi stated that transfer of money and banking transaction is the other hinder, reiterating that currently transfer of Iranian traders' money with Lebanon is carried out through Turkey and Dubai while it is impossible in Lebanon.

He admitted that Lebanese banks avoid cooperating with Iranians because of their fear of the U.S. sanctions.

Taghaddosi also said that the Lebanese are ready for free trade agreement with Iran but Iran has announced free trade deal is impossible and it prefers preferential trade. He said this suggestion of Iran was welcomed by Lebanon but so far it has not come into effect.

He reiterated that Lebanon can be a good hub for trade of Iranian goods with African and Latin American markets, and imports of goods whose imports face problem due to the sanctions.

He said almost 70 percent of goods are imported into Lebanon through Beirut Port but Iranian goods are exported to Lebanon via Tripoli.

He concluded that after Beirut blast, the country badly feels the shortage of goods and Iran can take advantage of it in favor of it.

Iran, Austria Discuss Prospects of Economic Cooperation



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Hamid Zadboum held an online meeting with the Austrian Deputy Economy Minister for Economic Affairs, Innovation and International Policy Florian Frauscher to discuss the roadmap for economic cooperation between the two countries.

The officials also discussed holding the two countries' joint economic committee meeting, the TPO portal reported on Tuesday.

In the meeting, Zadboum referred to the positive progress of the cooperation agreements and memorandums signed within the economic roadmap of the two countries, and said: "Despite the sanctions and their effects on Iran's trade, there are still favorable conditions for the development of economic relations between the two countries."

The TPO head also stressed the need to make some changes in the two sides' joint working groups for the 2020-2021 period and stated: "We welcome any proposals or opinions from the Austrian side and we hope that a document will be signed for the new period by the end of this year."

Frauscher for her part underlined the satisfactory performance of the two countries' economic working groups and stressed the need for constant evaluation of these working groups in parallel by both Iran and Austria.

At the end of the virtual meeting, the two sides expressed hope for the elimination of the problems caused by the coronavirus, and the U.S. sanctions, and announced their readiness to hold the next physical meeting of the two countries Joint Economic Committee in the first half of the next year.

Tehran Technology Park, Hub to Attract Elites

TEHRAN (IP) - The Iranian Vice president for Science and Technology Sorena Sattari noted that Pardis Technology Park (PTP) in Tehran will attract local and international tech enthusiasts.



In response to an Iran Press question regarding knowledge-based companies' role to meet the country's needs mainly in industry and medical equipment, Sattari stated that Tehran's PTP endeavors to attract elites and specialists active in ICT, medical equipment including coronavirus-combatting equipment biotechnology, and stem cells.

Highlighting the PTP's significant improvement, the vice president noted that there are all-out efforts to turn the park into a tech city as soon as possible. Sattari added that last year the park sold its products worth over 11 billion Tomans.

"Tehran's PTP has 250 companies and startups and the number is increasing," the vice president pointed.

He expressed optimism that the stated objectives would be attained as long as the PTP continues its rapid advancement.

Iran Car Tire Production Hits 27% Growth in 5 Months

TEHRAN (MNA) – Statistical study of performance of major domestic tire manufacturing companies indicated that 115,983 tons of car tires were produced in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (from March 21 to August 22).

Production of car tire in this period showed a 27 percent growth as compared to the last year's corresponding period.

Accordingly, 10,232,759 rings of tire were produced in this period, registering a 26 percent growth in terms of quantity as compared to the same period of last year.

Based on this report, 62,968 tons of tire were manufactured for passenger cars, showing a 28 percent hike as compared to the last year's corresponding period.

In addition, 9,268 tons of tire for pickups were produced from March 21 to August 22, recording a 13 percent hike as compared to the same period of last year.

In the mentioned period, tire production volume for light agricultural machinery registered a 123 percent hike as compared to the same period of last year.

Iran Produces 9.2m Tons of Steel Ingot Over in 5 Months

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran produced some 9.2 million tons of steel ingot over the past five months of the current Iranian year (started on March 20) up by 7% in comparison to figures from the same period last year.

Companies affiliated to Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization and other major Iranian mining companies are working to produce the commodity,

Iran is the world's 10th leading steel producer which plans to increase annual output to 55 million tons according to the provision of a 2025 Vision Plan.

Some 30 to 35 million tons of this figure are due to meet the domestic needs and the rest 20 to 25 million tons are envisaged for export.

Steel exports account for some 40 to 45 percent of the exports of Iran's mining industry.

Shrimp Farming to Amount to 52000 Tons by Yearend

TEHRAN (IRNA) - "Shrimp farming rate in Iran will increase to 52000 tons by the end of this Iranian calendar year (to end March 19th, 2020)", head of Iran's Fisheries Organization Nabiollah Khon Mirzaei said on Tuesday.

Shrimp farming in Iran hit 1,282,457 tons that is a significant figure, he said.

Iran ranks second in the world in terms of caviar production and third in terms of sturgeon farming, Khon Mirzaei added.

Our plan is to increase shrimp production in farms to 52,000 tons by the end of this Iranian calendar year (March 19th, 2020)", added the head of Iran's Fisheries Organization in his interview.

Khon Mirzaei said that last year, some 360,000 tons of fish species and fishery products were exported the

total worth of which amounted to around \$538million.

According to the official, 29,000 tons of these products which worth around \$98,9 million were imported.

He predicted that offshore fish farming will increase to 15,000 tons by year end.

Khon Mirzaei noted that earlier, Iran's place in caviar production was restricted to sturgeon fishing in the Caspian Sea.

According to government estimates, Iran exported some 22,000 tons of shrimp, worth of around \$150 million, in the year ending March 2018.

Iran aims to meet a target of 60,000 tons of shrimp production by 2021 by expanding the farms in southern regions like Sistan and Baluchestan as well as those along the coast of the Caspian Sea.

Inauguration of 2nd New Technologies Center at Ferdowsi University

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN – The second center of new technologies was inaugurated at the engineering faculty of Ferdowsi University of Mashhad through an online ceremony with Minister of Science, Research and Technology, Mansour Gholami, President of Ferdowsi University Professor Mohammad Kafi and some officials of the university and the province in presence.

Addressing the ceremony, President of Ferdowsi University Dr. Kafi welcomed the officials of Khorasan Razavi Governorate General and also felicitated the Government Week.

In his speech, Dr. Kafi pointed to the visit of ministers of science from the first center of the new technologies of the university in the past and termed the establishment of the center a good experience for the university and now by completion of the capacity of the first center, two more centers were on the eve of establishment and one of them is located at the engineering faculty which was being just inaugurated in the ceremony.

On the mission of the centers of new technologies, Dr. Kafi said that these centers have three major missions that attracting and boosting new and innovative ideas and projects of teachers and students and displaying them to companies and industries is the first mission of the center.

Creating the network for close cooperation between owners of industries with the university is the second mission, he added. Dr. Kafi further said that the third mission is deployment of laboratories which are able to meet demands of industries.

Dr. Kafi reiterated that the university has retained its relation with industries and technologies in the Coronavirus era and it has progressed well in the new technologies field.

Then Minister of Science Dr. Gholami hailed efforts of Ferdowsi University for restoring link between industry and technology and termed Ferdowsi University a pioneer in this issue.

Then Dr. Kafi and Deputy Governor General of Khorasan Razavi Eng. Kokab Mousavi inaugurated the center and visited its different sections.



Virus-Hit Morocco Locks Down Casablanca, Shuts Schools

RABAT (AFP) - Morocco imposed a lockdown on Casablanca and shut its schools Monday, the day pupils were due to return to classes, in a bid to stop the spread of Covid-19.

The new measures, which include restrictions on movement and a night-time curfew, would be in place for two weeks in the commercial capital, the authorities said a statement issued.

"We risk being overwhelmed by the virus," said Health Minister Khalid Ait Taleb.



Merkel Doesn't Rule out Sanctions On Russian Gas Pipeline

BERLIN (Reuters) - Chancellor Angela Merkel does not rule out imposing sanctions on a pipeline set to bring Russian gas to Germany in response to the suspected poisoning of a Kremlin critic with a Soviet-style nerve agent, her chief spokesman said on Monday.

Merkel is under mounting pressure from members of her conservative party to suspend the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, a huge project to double Russian gas exports to Germany that is more than 90% complete and due to start operating from early 2021.



EU to Blacklist 31 Belarus Senior Officials



BRUSSELS (Reuters) - The European Union aims to impose economic sanctions on 31 senior Belarus officials including the country's interior minister by mid-September, three EU diplomats said, in response to an Aug. 9 election that the West says was rigged.

Almost a month into mass demonstrations against the outcome of the contest, in which President Alexander Lukashenko claimed victory to prolong his 26-year-old rule, the EU aims to punish the government crackdown and support calls for fresh elections.

"We initially agreed on 14 names but many states felt that was not sufficient. We have now reached consensus on another 17," one EU diplomat said. "These are senior officials responsible for the election, for violence and for the crackdown."

EU foreign ministers gave their broad political approval for the sanctions - EU travel bans and asset freezes - at a meeting in Berlin late last month but did not decide who to target.

As repression continued against the opposition on Monday, the European Commission said EU sanctions would be imposed very soon, but did not give details.

"There is the political will and determination to have (sanctions) concluded as soon as possible," a spokesman for the EU executive told a news briefing. "It's not a question of whether, only when."

Greece and Cyprus, which are pushing for separate sanctions on Turkey in a dispute in the Eastern Mediterranean, still need to give their support to the Belarus blacklist.

All 27 EU countries must agree on such measures and Athens and Nicosia could use their support for the Belarus blacklist to obtain tough measures on Turkey, the diplomats said.

Names could still be added or taken off the list, but the diplomats said formal agreement is likely to come on Sept. 21, when EU foreign ministers hold their next scheduled meeting. The sanctions coming into effect on Sept. 22.

Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia imposed their own sanctions on Belarus officials in late August. EU diplomats declined to say how closely the Baltic and the EU lists are, for fear of alerting those in question to move assets out of banks.

Interior Minister Yuri Karaev and his deputy are expected to be on the EU list, along with senior election commission, security and justice officials and ministers.

Unlike the Baltic lists, Lukashenko will not be sanctioned. Germany, who holds the six-month presidency of the EU, wants more time for dialogue and to leave open the possibility of adding the president's name at a later stage.

Saudi Arabia Sentences Eight People Over Killing of Khashoggi



RIYADH (Dispatches) - The Riyadh Criminal Court announced prison sentences for eight defendants in the slaying of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, state media reported Monday, in a trial criticized by international human rights groups. Saudi state TV revealed few details about the final verdicts issued against the Saudi nationals, whose names were not made public.

The court ordered a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison for five of the accused. Another received a 10-year sentence and two others were ordered to serve seven years in prison.

The trial was widely criticized by rights groups and an independent UN investigator, who noted that no senior officials nor anyone suspected of ordering the killing was found guilty. The independence of the court was also brought into question. Prior to his killing, Khashoggi had written critically of Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in columns for the Washington Post. He was living in exile in the US for about a year as Prince Mohammed oversaw a crackdown in Saudi Arabia on human rights activists, writers and critics of the kingdom's devastating war in Yemen.

Khashoggi was killed in late 2018 inside the Saudi consulate in Turkey. The verdict comes after Khashoggi's sons said in May that they had "pardoned" the killers. Responding to the verdict, the UN's special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, Agnès Callamard, said the trial lacked "legal or moral legitimacy".

Callamard denounced the fact that "the high-level officials who organised and embraced the execution ... have walked free from the start", and that Prince Mohammed "has remained well protected against any kind of meaningful scrutiny in his country".

Khashoggi's Turkish fiancée Hatice Cengiz also dismissed the proceedings as a "farce". In a Twitter post in Turkish, Cengiz said, "The ruling handed down today in Saudi Arabia again makes a complete mockery of justice. The international community will not accept this farce".

Police Break Up Scuffles Between Demonstrators in Oregon's Capital

SALEM (Reuters) - Police broke up scuffles between supporters of President Donald Trump and Black Lives Matter activists and arrested two people in Salem, Oregon, on Monday as protests in the region turn increasingly violent.

More than 100 Trump supporters, including members of the all-male, alt-right group the Proud Boys, came to the capitol building in Salem, about 45 miles (72 km) south of Portland, in a caravan of vehicles on Monday afternoon, waving Trump 2020 signs and American flags and some carrying weapons. They were met by about 20 Black Lives Matter protesters.

The two groups fired pepper spray at each other, at least one Trump supporter beat a Black Lives Matter protester with a baseball bat and a Trump supporter sprayed a fire extinguisher. About two dozen state police officers were present and initially stood by as Trump supporters charged and hit Black Lives Matter protesters. Police then tackled two people who had been punching Black Lives Matter demonstrators and arrested them, according to a Reuters witness.

In a statement, a spokesman for the Oregon State Police said officers with the state police and Salem Police Department responded at the scene across from the capitol when an "American Lives Matter Rally group" charged at counter protesters, chasing and pushing them.

Two men were arrested, charged with misdemeanor assault and subsequently released, the spokesman said.

Monday marked the 102nd day of protests in nearby Portland. Three months of nightly protests in the city and its surrounding area have at times turned violent, with demonstrators against racism and police brutality clashing with police officers and right-wing groups. The demonstrations began, like others across the United States, following the death in May of George Floyd, a Black man who died under the knee of a white Minneapolis police officer.

Trump, who has made law and order the main theme of his bid for re-election on Nov. 3, has singled out Portland as one of several Democratic-led cities he calls "anarchist jurisdictions."

China Withholds U.S. Press Cards as Media Row Deepens

BEIJING (Dispatches) - China has refused to renew the press cards of several journalists working for US companies, a foreign media association said Monday, as Beijing kicks back against the treatment of its reporters in America.

The two superpowers have restricted reporter visas -- with China expelling journalists -- as tensions over everything from trade and tech, to Hong Kong and the coronavirus, sweep in the media.

China's foreign ministry was no longer renewing press credentials for US media employees in the country, the Foreign Correspondents' Club of China (FCCC) said in a statement on Monday.

At least five journalists at four media groups -- including the Wall Street Journal, CNN and Bloomberg -- had been denied new press cards, the FCCC said.

More are expected to receive similar treatment in coming weeks.

Foreign journalists are usually not allowed to work in China without valid press cards, which are also a requirement for gaining a residence permit.

Reporters are instead receiving letters that temporarily allow them to work using their expired press cards.

But the letters "could be revoked at any time, thus putting them at constant threat of expulsion," the Club said in a statement.

The moves come after the U.S. Homeland Security Department in May shortened the visa for Chinese journalists in the U.S. -- many of whom work for Chinese state-run media -- to 90 days.

China's foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian on Monday denied that any unusual restrictions had been placed on the journalists. The press cards "are currently being processed" he insisted, adding their "reporting and life in China will not be affected."

But he criticized the treatment of Chinese journalists in the US, accusing Donald Trump's administration of taking them "hostage to pressure China."

Journalists have been a focus of souring relations between the two powers since the start of the year, with Trump's administration accusing Beijing's overseas press corps of being propagandists for the Communist Party.

Zhao warned China would take further action if the U.S. did not extend visas for Chinese journalists as soon as possible. The U.S. embassy in Beijing did not immediately respond to AFP's request for comment.

EU Warns Serbia Over Jerusalem Embassy Move



BRUSSELS (Dispatches) - The EU has voiced "serious concern and regret" over Belgrade's commitment to move its embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, casting a shadow over the resumption of Serbia-Kosovo talks.

President Aleksandar Vucic of Serbia and Kosovo Prime Minister Avdullah Hoti are to meet in Brussels for a second round of EU-brokered, face-to-face talks to resolve two decades of disputes after clashing in war.

The meeting follows a high-profile summit at the White House where Vucic and Hoti agreed to improve economic relations - and in Serbia's case, following in the US's footsteps, committing to moving its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

But the EU remains committed to the so-called "two state solution" in which Jerusalem will be the capital of both Israel and a future Palestinian state, with its own diplomatic mission in Tel Aviv.

The bloc expects prospective members such as Serbia to align with its foreign policy positions.

"In this context, any diplomatic steps that could call into question the EU's common position on Jerusalem are a matter of serious concern and regret," EU foreign affairs spokesman Peter Stano told reporters in Brussels.

Breaking with long-standing diplomatic practice, US President Donald Trump's administration in December 2017 recognised Jerusalem as Israel's capital and moved the US embassy to the city.

Washington touted the agreements signed by Vucic and Hoti on Friday as a major breakthrough, but on Monday the two leaders issued a joint statement giving a far more cautious read.

"The recently agreed documents in Washington DC, building on previous dialogue-related commitments undertaken by the two parties, could provide a useful contribution to reaching a comprehensive, legally binding agreement on normalisation of relations," the statement said.



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J, balcony
marble fl
Fully Furn

Shanon (adviser)

Niavaran Villa (\$5000)
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5bdrs, S/p
S, J, balcony
green garden
Fully Furn

Parsian

Farmanieh (\$2600) 250sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p, S, J, & F.F
Zaferanieh (\$2200) 210sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p, S, J, & F.F
Velenjak (\$1600) 140sq.m, 2bdrs, S/p, S, J, & F.F
Gheitarieh (\$1800) 170sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p, S, J, & F.F

Jordan (\$1500) 200sq.m, 3bdrs, S/pool, balcony, & F.F

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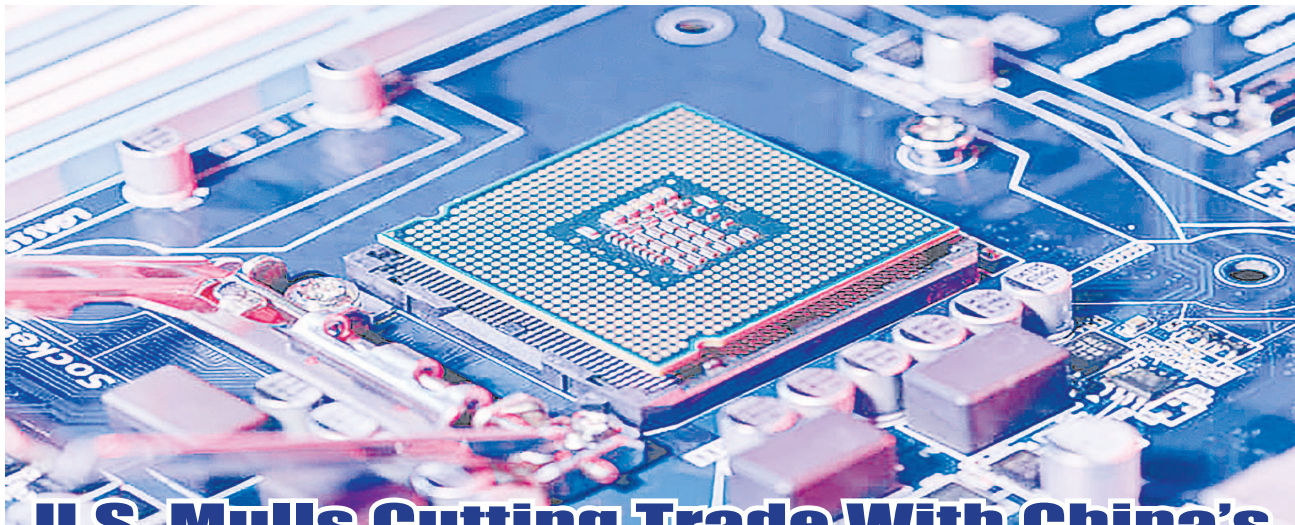
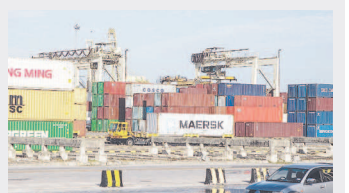
Malaysian Manufacturing Sector Stabilizing

KUALA LUMPUR (Dispatches) - As the country has managed to put Covid-19 under control and reboot the economy, which enabled businesses to reopen, leading to a better unemployment rate after a sharp drop in the second quarter.

The recovery is shown clearly with better

export, as well as manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) data released last week.

Ambank analyst Anthony Dass said the headline manufacturing PMI in August showed that sector activities slowed down slightly to 49.3 versus 50.0 in July — a slip from the threshold of between expansion and contraction.



U.S. Mulls Cutting Trade With China's Biggest Semiconductor Manufacturer

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - The Trump administration is considering adding China's largest semiconductor manufacturer to a trade blacklist, in another sign of heightening U.S.-China technology tensions.

The Defense Department said it is working with other agencies to determine whether the "actions" of Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corporation, or SMIC, warrant adding the company to the so-called Entity List, which would block U.S. companies from selling SMIC technology without a license.

"Such an action would ensure that all exports to SMIC would undergo a more comprehensive review," Pentagon spokeswoman Sue Gough said by email Saturday, confirming an earlier report by Reuters.

Gough declined to comment on the reasons for the review. The Pentagon in the past has warned that China's efforts to develop corporate strength in technologies including semiconductors would be likely to benefit the People's Liberation Army.

A report last month by SOS International, a defense contractor in Reston, Va., said that SMIC has a variety of ties to China's defense sector, including an ongoing relationship with CETC, a state-owned developer of military electronics. SMIC has helped CETC test new manufacturing technologies, and has used CETC technologies in its own manufacturing, according to the report, details of which were earlier reported by The Wall Street Journal. SOS also said Chinese military researchers have disclosed in research papers using SMIC technology to manufacture chips. SMIC officials didn't respond immediately to a request for comment.

The Entity List, overseen by the Commerce Department, has become a favorite Trump administration tool to crack down on China and now includes more than 300 Chinese entities.

The Trump administration has previously used it against Chinese telecom company Huawei, against entities engaged in alleged human rights violations in China's Xinjiang region, and most recently against Chinese companies allegedly involved in building controversial islands in the South China Sea.

Founded in 2000 in Shanghai, SMIC ranks among the top five semiconductor manufacturers in the world, according to a report from the United States International Trade Commission, or USITC. Industry experts say SMIC's technology lags behind that of chip manufacturers in Taiwan and the United States, but Beijing is pouring billions into the industry to help SMIC and other Chinese companies catch up.

SMIC has enjoyed generous government financial support, including low-interest loans, tax breaks and investments to help build manufacturing facilities, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris said in a report last year. Western industry experts say that China's semiconductor companies, while growing, are still reliant on some U.S. technology, including software and manufacturing equipment needed to make chips.

SMIC started as a private company, but state ownership has steadily grown over time, to more than 45% of SMIC stock as of 2018, according to the OECD report. SMIC's shares used to trade on the New York Stock Exchange, but the company removed its stock from the NYSE last year. The shares now trade on the Shanghai and Hong Kong exchanges.

In 2018, the U.S. added a different Chinese chip maker, Fujian Jinhua Integrated Circuit Company, to the Entity List, saying it posed a "significant risk of becoming involved in activities that are contrary to the national security interests of the United States."

Around the same time, the U.S. accused state-owned Fujian Jinhua of stealing commercial secrets from U.S. semiconductor company Micron.

A federal indictment alleged that Fujian Jinhua was part of a conspiracy to use Micron employees in Taiwan to steal sensitive data related to the design and production of so-called DRAM chips, which are used by the defense industry. The Chinese company denied the allegations. In blacklisting the company, the Commerce Department said Fujian Jinhua's plans to manufacture DRAM chips threatened "the long term economic viability of U.S. suppliers of these essential components of U.S. military systems."

Modest Rise in German July Industry Output Points to Slow Recovery

BERLIN (Reuters) - German industrial output rose far less than expected in July, suggesting Europe's largest economy faces a slow return to production levels that preceded the crisis unleashed by the coronavirus pandemic.

Industrial output rose by 1.2% on the month, a third successive increase after record drops in March and April during a lockdown, figures released on Monday by the Statistics Office showed. A Reuters poll had forecast an increase of 4.7%.

A breakdown of the data showed that activity in the construction sector, which had expanded during the lockdown, shrank by 4.3%, dragging on the headline figure. The automotive sector, which before the crisis was grappling with falling demand and an expensive shift to electric vehicles, saw activity expand by almost 7% month-on-month but production levels were still around 15% lower than in February.

"The German economy remains on track for a strong surge in the third quarter," said Carsten Brzeski, chief euro zone economist at ING. "It is too early to tell how much momentum will be left thereafter."

Even excluding the volatile construction and energy sectors, output rose by 2.8%, still lower than the forecast.

The Germany economy has weathered the pandemic much better than many of its big European neighbours, largely because the country kept factories open during a six-week lockdown. The government has also put in place a massive stimulus package.

A strong rebound in activity in May and June raised hopes of a fast recovery but economists now mostly predict a slow return to pre-crisis activity levels.

Industrial firms expect production to increase slightly in the coming months, according to a survey published on Monday by the Ifo economic institute.

Industry orders data published last week showed that domestic demand had fallen by more than 10% in July.

"With the latest data showing a small fall in domestic orders in August, while activity is losing momentum elsewhere in Europe, the economic recovery looks set to be moving into a more difficult, slower phase," Jack Allen-Reynolds of Capital Economics wrote in a note.



Russian Delegation Holds Talks With Assad

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Senior Russian officials held talks in Damascus on Monday with President Bashar al Assad, as the Syrian leader grapples with a crumbling economy that threatens to undermine military successes he has achieved with Moscow's help in a decade-long conflict.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Yuri Borisov and Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov arrived after Moscow said it would support Damascus in the face of tougher U.S. sanctions, which penalise foreign firms dealing with Syrian government entities.

Syrian state media reported the meeting with Assad.

Officials from Syria and Russia, whose military support since 2015 helped Damascus reverse gains by Islamists and other rebels, have said the two sides plan to boost trade ties and will review energy, mining and power projects. "Russia turned the tide for Assad and with the regime now facing its gravest challenges, Moscow is in a better position than any other time to further squeeze Assad," said one Western diplomat who follows Syria.

Although Assad has now regained most of the territory he lost, the economy is in tatters, leaving many Syrians in poverty as the currency has lost 80% of its value.

Russia has criticised the new U.S. sanctions that took effect in June under the so-called Caesar Act. Washington says the sanctions aim to cut off revenue for Assad's government and him push him back into U.N.-led talks to end the conflict. Syria is pinning its hopes on Russia, its biggest foreign ally, to help it shore up its economy. Syria's main regional ally, Iran, is itself also struggling to cope under a separate round of U.S. sanctions.

Hussam Taleb, a Syrian pro-government analyst, told Syrian state television the Russian visit would anger Washington which he said was "fighting us in our livelihood by passing the Caesar Act to deprive us of our wealth."

Western diplomats say Russian President Vladimir Putin's military involvement in Syria, its biggest Middle East intervention in decades, secured Moscow major regional influence and a bigger foothold in a naval base in Syria's Tartus port.

Nokia Takes a Hit as Samsung Secures Verizon 5G Deal

STOCKHOLM (Reuters) - Finnish telecom firm Nokia has suffered a setback after a source close to the matter confirmed it had lost out to Samsung Electronics on a part of the contract to supply new 5G equipment to Verizon in the United States.

With this \$6.64 billion contract win, Samsung has reinforced its position as a challenger to the dominance of Nokia and its Nordic rival Ericsson in selling telecom gear, after China's Huawei was barred from bidding for 5G contracts in the United States.

The loss for Nokia comes after its new Chief Executive Pekka Lundmark took the top job in August, but the source said negotiations were going on before he took charge. A Nokia spokeswoman declined to comment on the loss.

"We play a critical role in enabling Verizon's 3G and 4G networks and continue to work with them to accelerate innovation in 5G," she said. "They remain a top three global customer."

Major telecom firms such as Verizon uses several suppliers for building various parts of a network with radio contracts accounting for a big part of the spending.

Liberum analyst Janardan Menon said the contract loss could impact Nokia's ability to invest in technology at the same rate at its competition, and rival Ericsson might have even increased its share at Verizon. Liberum has a "hold" rating on Nokia shares.

An Ericsson spokesman declined to comment. Nokia shares were down 1% in morning trade.

The shares had fallen in July when brokerage JPMorgan said there was a real risk Verizon would reduce its dependence on Nokia as its primary RAN (radio access network) supplier going forward and shift towards Samsung.

IEA Sees Oil Market Stuck Between No Major Slowdown But Stalled Recovery

LONDON (Reuters) - The global economy is likely not headed for any major slowdown due to COVID-19 but piled-up storage and uncertainty over China's oil demand cloud oil markets' recovery, an official with International Energy Agency (IEA) said.

Keisuke Sadamori, IEA director for energy markets and security, told Reuters the outlook for oil was in the midst of either a second wave or a steady first wave of the coronavirus.

"There is an enormous amount of uncertainty, but we don't expect any additional serious slowdown in the coming months."

"Even though (the market is) not expecting real robust growth coming back soon, the view on demand is more stable compared with three months ago," he said in an interview.

Crude prices plunged in spring to historic lows as the pandemic's lockdowns crushed demand, and have pared losses but remained stuck near \$40 a barrel.

The IEA cut its 2020 oil demand forecast in its monthly report on Aug. 13, warning that reduced air travel would lower global oil demand by 8.1 million barrels per day (bpd).

The Paris-based agency downgraded its outlook for the first time in three months, as the epidemic continues to wreak economic pain and job losses worldwide.

With Brent crude registering its first weekly loss since June on Friday, markets have grown increasingly nervous over demand, poor refining margins and slow economic growth, reducing incentives to draw crude and products from abundant stocks.

"It doesn't seem like a massive stock draw seems to be happening yet," Sadamori said. "We are not seeing a robust pickup in refining activity, and jet fuel is the big problem," he added.

China, the world's largest crude importer, emerged from an economic lockdown sooner than other major economies and used its financial muscle to make record oil imports in recent months, a rare bright spot amid global demand destruction.

But geopolitical tensions could call into doubt "to what extent it can be sustainable and last long", Sadamori said.

"There are so many uncertainties with regard to the Chinese economy and their relationship with key industrialized countries, with the U.S. and these days, even Europe. It's not such an optimistic situation - that casts some shadow over the growth outlook".

Air Pollution Kills 7m People Every Year



TEHRAN (UNIC) - United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in his message on the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies, 7 September 2020 said air pollution causes an estimated 7 million premature deaths every year.

The full text of his message reads:

Around the world, nine out of every ten people breathe unclean air.

Air pollution contributes to heart disease, strokes, lung cancer and other respiratory diseases.

It causes an estimated 7 million premature deaths every year, predominantly in low- and middle-income countries.

Air pollution also threatens the economy, food security and the environment.

As we recover from the coronavirus pandemic, the world needs to pay far greater attention to air pollution, which also increases the risks associated with COVID-19.

We must also urgently address the deeper threat of climate change.

Limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees will help reduce air pollution, death and disease.

This year's lockdowns have caused emissions to fall dramatically, providing a glimpse of cleaner air in many cities.

But emissions are already rising again, in some places surpassing pre-COVID levels.

We need dramatic and systemic change.

Reinforced environmental standards, policies and laws that prevent emissions of air pollutants are needed more than ever.

Countries also need to end subsidies for fossil fuels.

And, at the international level, countries need to cooperate to help each other transition to clean technologies.

I call on governments still providing finance for fossil fuel-related projects in developing countries to shift that support towards clean energy and sustainable transport.

And I urge all countries to use post-COVID recovery packages to support the transition to healthy and sustainable jobs.

Today, 7 September, marks the first International Day of Clean Air for blue skies.

Let us work together to build a better future with clean air for all.

Iran, Russia Eyeing to Rise Energy Cooperation

MOSCOW (IRNA) - Iranian Ambassador to Moscow Kazem Jalali and Russian Deputy Energy Minister Anatoly Tikhonov emphasized the expansion of cooperation between Tehran and Moscow.

Jalali and Tikhonov met and held talks on the latest and upcoming energy cooperation between Iran and Russia. At the meeting, Tikhonov stressed the need to develop economic cooperation between the two

countries through the implementation of joint projects.

Pointing to the efforts made to remove the obstacles in the path of promoting economic and trade cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation, Jalali hoped that the set of measures taken would lead to the realization of the will of the leaders of the two countries to increase the volume of trade exchanges between the two countries to the level beyond its current volume.



World Economy Unlikely to Re-Attain Pre-Pandemic Output Levels Before 2022

SINGAPORE (Dispatches) - On Asia Pacific, the report said "optimism that leading Asia-Pacific economies' early containment of the virus could lead an exceptional GDP performance is receding, with South Korea on the brink of lockdown in August, Japan suffering case numbers comparable to those in western European countries, and even virus-free Taiwan region's economy shrinking year-on-year in Q2".

Unemployment will keep rising above the pre-pandemic baseline as government programs are phased out and cease to protect workers.

With COVID-19 still dominating major developments globally, the world economy is not likely to re-attain pre-pandemic output levels before 2022, says a report. According to Dun & Bradstreet Country Risk and the Global Outlook, "nothing about the pandemic can be classified as over, despite recoveries in activity levels in some economies in Q3, as evident in PMIs (Purchasing Managers Indices), Google Mobility data and monthly economic data".

Unemployment will keep rising above the pre-pandemic baseline as government programmes are phased out and cease to protect workers, while the pace of what recovery there is may yet weaken in Q4, said Arun Singh, Global Chief Economist, Dun & Bradstreet.

Singh further said "we do not expect the world economy to re-attain pre-pandemic output levels before 2022. The biggest question mark is not over the depth of the recent shock but over its persistence."

According to Singh, "in India, the pace of economic revival will depend on how quickly the health concerns abate as India is yet to witness a peak, economic activity restarts with 'Unlock 4' and importantly the psychological impact of the COVID-19 ebbs away."

The steady rise in case-loads, even as India demonstrates one of the highest recovery rates, and the spillover effects of the strict lockdown measures undermines the growth impulses in Q2 and Q3 of the fiscal year, he added. India's economy suffered its worst slump on record in April-June, with the gross domestic product (GDP) contracting by 23.9 per cent as the coronavirus-related lockdowns weighed on the already-declining consumer demand and investment.

On the employment front, all countries that Dun & Bradstreet covers (with the exception of Serbia) are showing year-on-year declines, the report said.

"Indeed, we believe that the road ahead will be one of further spikes and troughs in economic activity, with considerable regional variations. Even if all



jobs were to be saved, the decline in 2020 corporate profits in most OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) economies would be at least 5 per cent," it said.

On Asia Pacific, the report said "optimism that leading Asia-Pacific economies' early containment of the virus could lead an exceptional GDP performance is receding, with South Korea on the brink of lockdown in August, Japan suffering case numbers comparable to those in western European countries, and even virus-free Taiwan region's economy shrinking year-on-year in Q2".

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The Era of Beating Turkey With Economy Is Over



ANKARA (Dispatches) - An era when other countries, which could not beat Turkey in diplomacy, defense and military fields, used the economy as a weapon against it, has ended, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said.

"Those who could not bend our country's wrist in diplomacy, defense, and military fields throughout history have always used the economy as a weapon," Erdoğan said during the introductory meeting of Türkiye Sigorta (insurance company). They were able to achieve these goals at the times when Turkey's economy was not "sufficiently strong," he said pointing at exchange rates, interests and inflation as tools used against Turkey.

"Our country has lived through the days when overnight interests rose to 7,500 percent. We have seen periods when tax revenues could not even cover interest payments. There were times when we were in danger of not being able to pay civil servant salaries," Erdoğan stated.

"We witnessed scenes of shame where the economic bureaucracy was completely excluded and the country's finance and treasury were handed over to IMF commissars," he said. "Our economy, which has been taken into a spiral of the exchange rate, interest, and inflation, has skewed for years with crises that are repeated almost every 10 years. Tur-key was not able to use its potential while the countries with which we started the race of development gained ground. We have put an end to this vicious circle with the reforms we have implemented since 2002 and prevented the waste of resources and time in the economy," the president stated.

By paying its debt of \$ 23.5 billion to the IMF, Turkey regained economic independence and entered a new era in the economy, especially after the July 15 coup attempt, he stated. "If we can defend our country's rights and laws on different fronts without fear today, it is the self-confidence behind that we gained in the last 18 years," Erdoğan said.

"They will not allow those who negotiated with the IMF behind closed doors to send Tur-key back to the old days," he said. "We will never let you go back to the old days. We are going through a critical bend in this process."

This pandemic, which has upset the balance in the world, opened new windows of opportunity in front of countries with high production capacity like Turkey, he noted.

Turkey will be strengthened in the economy, along with other areas after the pandemic, he said.

Iraq to Boost Refinery Capacity

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) - Iraq plans to increase the processing capacity of its Qayara refinery in the northern part of the country to 90,000 bpd, Argus Media reported. Currently, the capacity of the Qayara facility is just 20,000 bpd.

The report follows another one from a week ago, which said Baghdad had plans to boost the capacity of the Baiji refinery, also in the north, to 280,000 bpd in response to the slump in oil prices, oil minister Ihsan Abdul Jabbar said. Currently running at a capacity of 75,000 bpd, the refinery would be brought up to 140,000 bpd over the next few months and then to 280,000 bpd.

"In the light of the decline in oil prices and the difficulties facing the Iraqi economy, the ministry is relying on refining, gas, and petrochemical industries, which are considered an economic pillar to sustain and enhance national development," the minister said in a new statement, as quoted by Shafaq news agency.



Baiji is Iraq's largest refinery, processing a third of the oil output that stays on the domestic market for local consumption. Before the Islamic State insurgency, the facility had a nameplate capacity of 310,000 bpd, but the war that followed

the insurgency reduced this significantly as it became the target of attacks. Since then, most of the capacity has been brought back online, but Iraq still cannot satisfy all domestic demand for fuels with its local refining capacity.

Qayara is another large processing facility, but Iraq has had plans to boost its domestic refining capacity to 1.5 million bpd by 2022 from less than 900,000 bpd now. It has sought investors for whole new refinery projects but has had no success with these. According to the Argus report, there is just one new refinery project under development currently, and this is the Kerbala refinery, with a capacity of 140,000 bpd. It is being fully financed from the state budget.

France Puts Jobs at Heart of Economy Rescue Plan

PARIS (Dispatches) - The French government said jobs were the number one priority as it prepared to unleash a mammoth spending plan for the coronavirus-hit economy.

Prime Minister Jean Castex promised 160,000 new jobs in 2021 as part of a recovery plan worth 100 billion euros (\$120 billion), designed to help growth and employment at a time when daily virus numbers in France are on the rise again. "Relaunching the economy and fighting unemployment is the plan's priority objective," Castex said.

"I hope that the recovery plan will create 160,000 jobs in 2021 that is our aim," he told broadcaster RTL.

The French economy has experienced its worst downward spiral since 1945, with gross domestic product plunging 13.8 percent in the second quarter, after a drop of more than five percent in the first.

The government expects GDP for the 2020 to contract by 11 percent, and a total of 800,000 jobs lost over the year.

The budget boost, a combination of new spending and tax breaks, is four times the amount France spent over a decade ago to deal with the global financial crisis, according to the government.

It is separate from a 750 billion euro European Union plan agreed after acrimonious haggling in July, and comes on top of hundreds of billions already spent in an early crisis response during the first months of the pandemic.

Over the medium term the government has pledged to use the money to stimulate investment in green technologies, and help some economic sectors such as health care become more competitive.

"This plan is not just designed to dress the wounds from the crisis," Castex told Le Figaro daily. "It lays the ground for the future."

President Emmanuel Macron had said in the run-up to the stimulus plan that it would prepare "the France of 2030" with its emphasis on decarbonising the economy, improving corporate competitiveness and jobs.

Economists have welcomed the departure from the kind of austerity measures seen after the 2008 crisis which were "a huge error," said Philippe Martin, who heads up the CAE think tank which advises the government.

This time, "the focus is not on public debt," agreed Xavier Ragot, president of the OFCE economics institute.

The economy saw a lively but brief rebound just after the end of lockdown measures in mid-May, but has since shown worrying signs of sliding back again, while French virus infection rates are back on the rise.

Measures to prevent a feared second virus wave, such as mandatory mask-wearing at the workplace, are seen undermining the very confidence among economic actors that the government is desperately trying to restore.

Unlike the post-2008 crisis response, much of the new plan targets the supply and investment side of the economy, namely businesses.

The measures over the next two years include 35 billion euros' worth of help for the corporate sector, much of it in the shape of tax cuts.

Some 30 billion euros are earmarked for greener policies. NGOs have said this was too little, and called on the government to demand environmental commitments from companies in return for state help.

God's Promise...

FROM PAGE 1

The failure of Saudis and Emiratis lie in this point that after over five years of aggression in the form of anti-Yemeni coalition they have failed to materialize their pre-planned goals although Yemen is on the verge of being divided into three parts and Saudi Arabia covets eastern provinces like Al-Mahrah Province and the UAE with its mercenaries, so called the Southern Transitional Council, covets southern provinces from Aden and Abyan to Socotra Island to occupy them. But National Salvation Government in Yemen by their precise attacks has spoiled the sleep for the Saudi Family.

The most important political and religious current in Yemen, namely, Ansarullah, despite negative picture painted through the Western and Hebrew propagations, is not just the representative and promoter of a certain religion but it is determined to implement the Quranic culture until the moment when the Quranic values turn into a culture and daily behavior in the lives of Muslims.

Of course most followers of Quranic move will be from Zaydi, Shafai and Ismaili sects because learnings of these sects are common among Yemenis' lives. But it does not mean that the door should be closed to other religions and sects. The Saudi Family look at Yemen through Wahhabism lenses and this has caused their enmities to increase because Yemen is to implement genuine goals of the Holy Quran and will not accept American Islam which makes Saudi Family and Zionists seat together.

Yemen in war with them will win because this is God's promise. God has decided the Yemeni war to end in favor of re-appearance of the savior of humanity and Yemeni people, and this will undoubtedly happen shortly.

Iran Calls for...

FROM PAGE 1

In another part of the letter, the Iranian minister added that blocking Iran's access to global banking channels has damaged the country's economy and disrupted important trade activities, including drugs and medical equipment.

"This has targeted and damaged the health of the people of our country, especially in the face of the outbreak of COVID-19 disease. In addition to general commitments and multilateral treaties, the US government is required by the interim order of the International Court of Justice to lift sanctions on drugs and medical equipment."

The minister said Iran has been in a difficult situation in the last seven months, while at the same time fighting against COVID-19 and illegal and unilateral sanctions.

"Therefore, our expectation in this situation is that the World Health Organization, the United Nations and all international agencies make sure that medicines and humanitarian items are made available to the Iranian people," concluded the Iranian health minister.

Meanwhile yesterday Namaki said that today, for the first time in the country's history, 53 health, medical centers were inaugurated.

53 health centers were inaugurated in Khuzestan and Fars provinces yesterday in the presence of Iran's Minister of Health and Medical Education Saeed Namaki via videoconference.

Speaking during the third inauguration of health projects (National Health Path Campaign), health minister opened 48 health, treatment, laboratory, and residential units in Khuzestan province, completion of three hospital projects in the cities of Kharamah, Estahban, and Abadeh in Fars province, and two health projects in Jahrom.

Namaki stated, "With the pressure of sanctions and the coronavirus pandemic in place, this year is the most unique and golden year in the development of health centers in the country, and for the first time in the history of Iran, 10,600 hospital beds in the format of 1400 projects including 2,000 ICU beds will open until April 01, 2021, and present it to the honorable people of Iran."



Mahrez and Laporte Test Positive for Coronavirus

LONDON (Dispatches) - Manchester City players Riyad Mahrez and Aymeric Laporte have tested positive for coronavirus, the Premier League club announced on Monday. City said in a statement that both players were self-isolating in accordance with Premier League and government rules. “Neither is displaying symptoms of the virus,” the statement said. “Everyone at the Club wishes Riyad and Aymeric a speedy recovery ahead of their return to training and the new season.”

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Wilson Signs For Newcastle

LONDON (AFP) - Callum Wilson on Monday completed his move to Premier League club Newcastle from relegated Bournemouth for a reported fee of £20 million (\$26 million). The 28-year-old England forward has signed a four-year deal with Steve Bruce's side. “Newcastle United are delighted to announce the signing of striker Callum Wilson from AFC Bournemouth,” the club said in a statement.

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SPORTS

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

Bucks Survive Despite Antetokounmpo Injury

LAKE BUENA VISTA (Dispatches) - Giannis Antetokounmpo was waiting in the locker room for his teammates, standing on his bad right ankle to greet every one of them. His day ended early. His season isn't over yet. Khris Middleton scored 36 points, including a big 3-pointer with 6.4 seconds left in overtime, and the Milwaukee Bucks avoided a sweep by beating the Miami Heat 118-115 in overtime of Game 4 of the Eastern Conference semifinals. The Heat still lead 3-1, but the Bucks – the best team in the regular season – are still alive, even after Antetokounmpo left early in the second quarter after he aggravated his sprained right ankle. “Khrist is very unique,” Bucks Coach Mike Budenholzer said. “He’s got a way about him. He wanted to play. He asked to stay in the game.” As if there was any other option. Middleton’s season-high before Sunday was 40 minutes; he logged 48 in Game 4, taking over with Antetokounmpo watching from the locker room. “Just keep fighting,” said Middleton, who also had eight rebounds and eight assists. “That’s all my teammates did.” Bam Adebayo had 26 points, 12 rebounds and eight assists for Miami. Duncan Robinson scored 20 points, Jae Crowder had 18 and Goran Dragic and Jimmy Butler each finished with 17. “We didn’t deserve to win that game,” Butler said.

Miami had an eight-point lead in the fourth quarter but allowed the Bucks to score the next 12, and now needs to come back Tuesday in an effort to finish the series off. Antetokounmpo scored 19 points in only 11 minutes, while Brook Lopez and Eric Bledsoe each had 14 for Milwaukee. George Hill added 12.

Osaka Into U.S. Open Quarters

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Two-time Grand Slam winner Naomi Osaka booked a place in the quarter-finals of the US Open Sunday with a straight-sets win over Estonia’s Anett Kontaveit. Osaka, the fourth seed, powered past her 14th seeded counterpart 6-3, 6-4 in the late match in an empty Arthur Ashe Stadium at Flushing Meadows. The 2018 U.S. Open champion said keeping her emotions in check was key to dominating the 1hr 12 min match. “For me it’s very important because it’s quite easy to get down on yourself, especially when you feel like you could have converted so many times,” she explained. “But I just told myself that she’s a great player she’s supposed to hold her serve so yeah just keep pushing.” Frustration had got the better of Osaka in the previous round when she threw her racquet during a tie-break. Osaka said she hadn’t watched live the incident with Novak Djokovic earlier in the day when he was disqualified for accidentally hitting a lines judge with his ball after losing a game. She was sleeping ahead of her night match, but after becoming aware of it she said it served as a reminder to remain in control while on the court.

German FA Defend Decision to Fly to Basel

BERLIN (Dispatches) - The German FA on Monday defended its decision to fly the team 240km (149 miles) from Stuttgart to Basel for an international against Switzerland as angry fans pointed out the environmental impact. Joachim Loew’s Germany slipped to their second draw in three days after conceding a second-half equaliser on Sunday to draw 1-1 against the Swiss. The result leaves the Germans third in their Nations League group. Frustrated by the result, German fans used social media to vent their anger after the team flew the short distance in a private jet, rather than use more environmentally-friendly options of train or bus.



Miami managed only two points in the first 4:30 of overtime, then got within one on a 3-pointer from Tyler Herro, but Middleton delivered the biggest shot of the night to make it 116-112. Antetokounmpo scored 19 of Milwaukee’s first 30 points, shooting 8-for-10 from the floor. But in an instant, everything changed for the Bucks. The Bucks’ season isn’t. Milwaukee said Antetokounmpo would get plenty of treatment Sunday night and Monday before a decision is made about his availability for next game.

LAKERS 117, ROCKETS 109

LeBron James had 28 points, 11 rebounds and nine assists, Anthony Davis added 34 points and 10 rebounds, and Los Angeles evened the Western Conference semifinals by winning Game 2. Markieff Morris scored 16 points for the Lakers. They opened a 21-point lead in the first half, gave up 41 points in the third quarter to fall behind, then regrouped behind some high-flying plays by James to pull away again. James took only 15 shots in Game 1 and was scoreless in the fourth quarter of the Lakers’ 112-97 loss, but he was dominant on both ends in the final quarter of this one. He had eight points in the quarter and a powerful blocked shot on Russell Westbrook that flew far out of bounds. James Harden scored 27 points and Eric Gordon made six 3-pointers and finished with 24 points for the Rockets, who made 22 3-pointers. P.J. Tucker had 18 points and Robert Covington 17, but Westbrook finished only 4 for 15 while scoring 10 points and grabbing 13 rebounds.



Speaking at a news conference, Southgate said they had both been isolated from the rest of the squad and would travel back from Iceland to the UK separately. Video footage emerged of Manchester City’s Foden and Manchester United’s Greenwood allegedly meeting girls in their hotel room after Saturday’s Nations League win in Reykjavik.

Greenwood, Foden Out of England Squad

LONDON (Reuters) - England manager Gareth Southgate said both Phil Foden and Mason Greenwood will play no part in Tuesday’s Nations League game in Denmark after breaching COVID-19 protocols in Iceland.

The footage came to light on Icelandic outlet DV after the girls shared videos on Snapchat on Sunday. “Unfortunately this morning it was brought to my attention that the two boys have broken the COVID guidelines in terms of our secure bubble -- had to decide they couldn’t have interaction with the rest of the team,” Southgate said. “We are still getting the depths of the information. Still getting to grips with the detail. I’m not going into any more details until I’m clear of everything. “These are two boys I don’t know particularly well at the moment so I can’t speak in great depth. I have got to try and speak with them later in the appropriate way. They have got responsibilities and they have apologised,” he added. Southgate also said that the right precautions had been taken while the team is still in Iceland so as not to put the Denmark game in Copenhagen game at risk.

Djokovic Gave U.S. Open Supervisor No Choice

BELGRADE (Reuters) - Novak Djokovic deserved to be disqualified from the U.S. Open when he hit a line judge with reckless though unintentional ball abuse, Serbia’s former Davis Cup coach Bogdan Obradovic told Reuters on Monday.

World number one Djokovic was disqualified while trailing Spaniard Pablo Carreno Busta 6-5 in the opening set of their fourth-round tie on Sunday, striking a line judge with a petulant swipe of the ball. The incident happened after Djokovic squandered three set points on his opponent’s serve and then dropped his own, handing the Spaniard the initiative. “He drove through a red light,” Obradovic, who was in charge of a Djokovic-led Serbia team which lifted the 2010 Davis Cup, told Reuters by telephone. “I feel sorry for him because he was in good form and on course to win his 18th Grand Slam title, but the rules on ball and racket abuse are clear and they apply to everyone. “He dragged himself into the mud by making a silly mistake in unfortunate circumstances. We are all human and we all vent our frustrations sometimes, but there is no excuse for putting someone in harms’ way, albeit unintentionally. “The most important thing is that the lady is fine and people saying that it wasn’t that bad should really revisit that position and put themselves in her shoes.” Serbian fans jumped to Djokovic’s defence on message boards in the aftermath of the incident, with some suggesting the line judge struck by the ball “embellished her pain” and reacted as if she had been “hit by a soccer ball.”



Loew Vows to Attack After Low-Key Nations League Start

BERLIN (Dispatches) - After two consecutive draws which have left the Germany camp seething, head coach Joachim Loew has vowed to go on the attack with a full-strength squad in the Nations League next month.

“We will really attack again in October,” said Loew as Germany sit third behind Group 4A leaders Spain and Ukraine in the Nations League. Loew is determined to get their first pool win when Germany face Ukraine away, then host the Swiss at home next month. Having conceded a last-gasp goal in Thursday’s 1-1 against Spain, Loew’s make-shift Germany team, missing several rested stars, was again held Sunday when the Swiss equalised in a 1-1 draw in Basel. Goal-scorer Ilkay Gundogan was “p****ed off” after sloppy German defending allowed Swiss right-back Silvan Widmer to equalise as Germany surrendered the lead for the second time in three days. Germany captain Toni Kroos was “disappointed” to take just two points from a possible six from their opening games. “If you now twice lead 1-0 and then don’t make it home, that’s obviously annoying,” admitted Loew. “It also has to do with the fact that the players are not fully fit,” he added as many of his squad are just back from holiday. Bayern Munich defender Niklas Suele and winger Leroy Sane -- two key players in Loew’s future plans -- are just over knee injuries.

