

Iran's Health Ministry Spokeswoman
Sima Sadat Lari Said on Sunday
That Some 128 More Iranians Have
Died From Coronavirus Disease
Over the Past 24 Hours

IRAN NEWS

The International Court of Justice
Announced that It Is Scheduled to
Hold Public Hearings With Regard
To the Alleged Violations of the 1955
Treaty of Amity Between Iran and
The U.S. From September 14-21

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Severe Vengeance Awaiting Bahrain King After Deal With Israel

TEHRAN (IFP)- Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has roundly condemned the establishment of diplomatic relations between Bahrain and the Israeli regime.

The IRGC warned that severe vengeance is awaiting Bahraini King Hamad bin Salman al-Khalifa.

"The ruthless ruler of Bahrain should be awaiting tough revenge by those fighting for the liberation of Quds and the country's Muslim and zealous nation," read an IRGC statement.

"The shameful move by the Al Khalifa [ruler] and the Bahrain ruling regime to establish relations with the Zionist regime [of Israel], which is against the will and desire of the Muslim people of this country, amounts to sheer folly and lacks any legitimacy and they will receive proportionate responses," the statement added.

"The domino of the normalization of the Israeli regime's ties with rulers of some Arab countries engineered by the White House and the hated and unwise president of the US following the imposition of humiliation on Muslim nations and looting their resources and wealth is aimed at creating security for the occupiers of Palestine and usurpers of the holy Quds; however, the vicious objective will never come true," read the statement.

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Majlis Resolved to Strengthen, Stabilize Stock Market

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN – Majlis Speaker Mohamad Bagher Qalibaf said the body is determined to back, strengthen and stabilize domestic stock market.

He made the remarks at the beginning of a Sunday Parliament open session, which followed a two-hour close session about domestic capital and stock market.

Qalibaf said that the Parliament is determined to support, strengthen and stabilize the stock and capital market and tries to move the available liquidity in the stock market towards production sector in a bid to complete industrial, commercial and factory projects and boost production.

He vowed that the Parliament will do its best to protect the investments of the Iranian people in the capital market.

TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), which is Iran's major stock exchange, experienced a five-percent decrease in the week ended on September 4, a two-percent fall in the week ended on August 28, an 11.3-percent drop in the week ended on August 21, and a two-percent fall in the week ended on August 14.

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Tehran Offers Suggestions to Accelerate Trade With Ankara



TEHRAN - Iran is ready to increase trade exchanges with Turkey, the head of Iran Customs Administration said, referring to carrying out the pilot plan of electronic exchanging customs information, following up the possibility of electronic inquiry of the certificate of origin from the relevant Turkish authorities doing joint projects and increasing trucks' transit.

Speaking with Turkey's Deputy Minister of Customs and Trade Riza Tuna Turagay via a joint video conference, Mahdi Mir Ashrafi expressed readiness for holding border meeting in Bazargan-Gorbolagh border and implementing the pilot plan of the technical final project for exchanging customs information.

He added that Iranian customs also suggested following up the possibility of electronic inquiry of the certificate of origin from the relevant Turkish authorities.

Mir Ashrafi noted that Iran Customs Administration is ready to sign MoU on implementing the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) and green corridor.

He went on to say that increasing the capacity of accepting trucks in Gorbolagh customs and also increasing the capacity in Esendere.

Mir Ashrafi said the Turkish side has started accepting 120 people per day in the Esendere border since August 14. He added that 110 trucks move toward Turkey per day and 50 ones move toward Iran.

Elaborating on Iranian drivers' dissatisfaction over services provided and health conditions in Gorbolagh border, he said the issue is being addressed by the Turkish deputy economy minister.

He went on to say that the Turkish side suggested lifting the ban on the import of 68 items which are subject to Iran's preferential tariff for Turkey.

They also requested for finalizing phase 3 of the e-TIR project and facilitating its implementation.

Mirashrafi then put forward the following suggestions, asking for required follow-up measures to be taken by the Turkish side.

1. Iran suggests holding an introductory online meeting among the IT experts of the two parties on Tuesday, September 16th, to discuss the requirements and set the schedule for an upcoming face-to-face border meeting at Bazargan-Gorbolagh customs as well as the pilot implementation of a finalized project for electronic and online exchange of customs information.

2. The Islamic Republic also calls for pursuing the possibility of electronic inquiry of the origin certificate from the affiliated authorities in Turkey,

3. Iran Customs voices its readiness for signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Turkish counterpart for implementation of a project of Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) and simplified green corridor customs,

4. Iran urges Turkey to increase the acceptance capacity of trucks at Gorbalağ and Essen Darreh customs in Turkey by improving sanitation and quarantine facilities at the borders,

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Enemy Failed in All Political, Legal Plots Against Iran

TEHRAN (PressTV) - President Hassan Rouhani says the enemy has failed to achieve its objectives against the Islamic Republic in all political and legal fields, citing the abortive U.S. push to reimpose UN sanctions as an example.

"Although the enemy has been able to create obstacles for us in the economic field, it has failed regarding political and legal issues. It has faced at least three major historical defeats in recent months," Rouhani said in a virtual address marking the beginning of the new academic year on Sunday.

He also referred to the unsuccessful US effort to trigger the so-called snapback provision in the 2015 nuclear deal aimed at reinstating all UN restrictive measures against Iran. On August 22, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo claimed that US was still a participant in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and therefore retained the right to activate a 30-day countdown to a return of UN sanctions that had been imposed on Tehran before the nuclear agreement.

"No UN Security Council member accompanied the U.S. in its snapback push. Until today, America has not been able to invoke the snapback mechanism," Rouhani said.

"The end of September is the end of the time envisioned in Resolution 2231, and the United States is basically not a member of the JCPOA," he added, referring to the UNSC resolution that endorsed the nuclear deal.

The Iranian president further noted that despite economic difficulties, the country has witnessed inauguration of big projects while universities and knowledge-based companies have made remarkable achievements.

"Today is the day the great Iranian nation puts up double resilience against unprecedented sanctions and the dangerous coronavirus; this is possible with trust and hope... The reason we have been able to resist over the past 42 years is the trust of the people." Since scrapping the JCPOA in May 2018, the administration of US President Donald Trump has unleashed its "toughest ever" sanctions to bring Iran's economy to its knees, but it keeps humming and is getting back on its legs.

ViewPoint

By: Hamid Reza Naghashian



September 11 Scenario Turns 19

An unproved charge, that the West Asian countries have paid its price for it, is attributed to September 11, 2001 event. In fact, if Al-Qaeda was behind this scenario, Saudi Arabia's rulers should have paid its price so that not only they did not pay, but also they paved the ground for presence of the U.S. Army in the region.

It was an incident where the U.S. guile is seen, and most individuals and international communities have casted doubt on it as the U.S. claims that the extremist group Al-Qaeda with financial support of Saudis has masterminded the attack and they are trying to cover up the role of Saudi government in order to milk more this milk cow. So the plot was carried out in the morning of September 11, 2001 when 19 Al-Qaeda forces hijacked four American passenger planes.

The first plane crashed the northern part of the World Trade Center building at 08:45 a.m. and then the second plane hit the southern side of the building at 09:03 a.m. Immediately after the second plane crashed the building, the U.S. government ordered the closure of New York airports and imposed curfew in the tunnels and bridges of the city.

The then U.S. President George Bush who was in Florida officially announced that the U.S. was attacked and flew to one of the U.S. military centers. One of the hijacked planes hit the Pentagon in Washington D.C. at 09:43. This attack caused the government to order immediate evacuation of the White House.

The southern building collapsed at 10:05 almost one hour after the being hit by the plane. At 10:10 the west side of the Pentagon collapsed. At the same time the fourth plane crashed near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

This attack made the government officials order evacuation of the United Nations, Department of State and Department of Justice buildings and later the World Bank building. The northern building of the Twin Towers collapsed at 10:28. After this collapse, all government federal buildings were closed and evacuated in Washington. Israel also closed down its diplomatic centers worldwide. All government center in New York were closed and the then New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani who is mistress of the MKO group (Iranian terrorist Group) urged citizens not to leave their residences.

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Iranian Film Wins Award Of Venice Film Festival

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - The Iranian director Majid Majidi's film 'The Sun' won the Magic Lantern award at the Venice Film Festival.

'The Sun' narrates the story of working children looking for treasure, but unaware that they are the treasure themselves.



The 77th Venice International Film Festival kicked off on September 2 in Italy under strict health protocols. In this festival, 18 films, including the movie 'The Sun' directed by Majid Majidi, compete for the Golden Lion Award.

Meanwhile Iranian teen Rouhollah Zamani won the Marcello Mastroianni Award for the best young actor for his role in "Sun Children," the latest from Majid Majidi, a director much celebrated for his facility with child performers.

In the festival's secondary Horizons competition, jury president Claire Denis handed the top prize to Iranian director Ahmed Bahrami's "The Wasteland," a study of worker tensions at a rural brick factory.

The 77th Venice International Film Festival kicked off on September 2 in Italy under strict health protocols. In this festival, 18 films, including the movie 'Sun Children' directed by Majid Majidi, competed for the Golden Lion Award.

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Tehran, Minsk Stress Finalizing Prisoners Transfer Agreement

TEHRAN (MNA) – The Iranian ambassador to Minsk and the consular director general of the Belarusian Foreign Ministry stressed the need to finalize an agreement on the transfer of convicts between the two countries.

Consular issues between the two countries including visa facilities for businessmen, visa and residence problems of Iranian citizens and transfer of prisoners were discussed during

the meeting of the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Minsk Saeed Yari with Consular Director general of the Belarusian Foreign Ministry Alexander Khainovsky.

Emphasizing the good consular relations between the two countries, Khainovsky announced the readiness of the Belarusian Foreign Ministry to prepare for the holding of the “Sixth Joint Consular Commission” between Iran and Belarus in Minsk.

UAE, Bahrain Revealed Their Real Face

TEHRAN (MNA) – Top Adviser to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution for International Affairs Ali Akbar Velayati slammed the Bahraini agreement to normalize ties with the Israeli regime.

“The disgraceful act of Al Khalifa and its insistence on implementing the Deal of the Century and betraying the Palestinian cause displays the recklessness of the rulers of Bahrain and also the UAE that they built a house on the water by pinning hope on empty promises the Great Satan, US, who has shed the blood of thousands of innocent Muslims, both Arabs, and non-Arabs,” he said in a statement on Sunday.

The rulers of Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates displayed their true image, hurt the feelings of millions of free people, and made enemies of the oppressed people of Palestine bolder, Velayati added.

American strategists, who have conceded numerous defeats in recent years in West Asia, have no other aim by these ‘normalization show’ than to satisfy the Zionist lobby and rescue the Israeli PM and the US President, he added.

“Obviously, this shameful act has created new opportunities such as exposing the hypocrisy of some reactionary rulers in the region, revealing the true intentions of the puppets, awakening Muslim nations, unity of Islamic groups and movements, further weakening the compromise process and strengthening the determination of the Resistance by the day,” the Leader’s adviser said.



The World Assembly of Islamic Awakening condemns this clear betrayal to the Palestinian cause and to the Arab nations and Islamic Ummah and calls on all Muslim governments and nations to reject the plan and spare no effort till the final defeat of the occupying Israeli regime, he added.

“Certainly, with the help of Almighty God, Palestine will be liberated from the river to the sea with the solidarity of the awakened nations and the great scholars and sympathizers of the Islamic Ummah, and the final victory will be for the Palestinian nation,” concludes the statement.

Medical Services Provided To Ships Crossing Oman Sea

CHABAHAH (IRNA)- Medical teams in Chabahar Port are ready to respond to sailors and they provide medical services to ships passing through the Sea of Oman, Deputy Director of Ports and Maritime Department of Sistan-Baluchestan Province Hassan Ebrahimi on Sunday.

MRCC organizes, plans, and coordinates operations in its covered area through specialized maritime search and rescue software and hardware.

“Having received a message by Maritime Rescue Coordination Center (MRCC) in Chabahar port, based on the request of the ship’s medical assistance in the Oman Sea, Medical teams in Chabahar Port immediately coordinated the operation,” Ebrahimi told IRNA.

He said that for example, medical services have been carried out to QUEEN1 ship in the Sea of Oman by the Maritime Search and Rescue Center of Chabahar Port.

Ebrahimi said that the request was sent to the coast relief team based on the ship to transport to the health centers in the city of Chabahar, pointing out that the request was received from the QUEEN1 of Panama.

In order to establish an internationally coordinated system for search and rescue of people in distress at sea, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) approved the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR) in 1979, which entered into force in 1985.

This convention describes the structure of maritime rescue coordination centers (MRCCs), coastal coordination procedures, and the means for the cooperation of neighboring States for SAR operations at the regional level. Considering the location of this country and the requirements of the above-mentioned convention, the establishment of MRCCs seems necessary for assisting people in distress at sea and conducting SAR operations

Shift to E-Learning a Huge Evolution



TEHRAN (IP) - Minister of Science Research and Technology said that transferring In-person learning to E-learning without any previous experience was a huge evolution.

Delivering a speech in the opening ceremony of universities, Mansour Gholami said that the previous education year that we passed was considerable and full of steps taken by Higher Education of the Country.

He went on to say that in E-learning we did not have great differences with the world, but to keep the quality great endeavor is needed. To achieve this goal, we had great supports, but more is required to empower out potentials and capacities, he added.

Higher Education of the Country is one of our capitals which can help the nation to pass difficulties even in the economic field, he concluded.

Health minister Saeed Namaki in this ceremony also said that our medical universities have had an active role in the last seven months in fighting the coronavirus pandemic and all medical university students stood with people in this regard.

Referring to the fact that even-aged professors acted in fighting the coronavirus pandemic, the minister said that medical universities were active round the clock, he noted. Although sever sections were imposed on us, we created a great epic that our enemies declared that no patient in Iran stood behind the door of the hospitals, he concluded.

The opening ceremony of universities in Iran was held on Sunday morning in the virtual presence of President Hasan Rouhani and with the minister of science research and technology Mansour Gholami, Health minister Saeed Namaki in attendance at Tehran University.

IRGC Operations Against Terrorist Groups in Iraqi Kurdistan

TEHRAN (IP)- In recent days, the Hamzeh Seyyed al-Shohada command of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) has targeted the terrorist groups’ headquarters in the Iraqi Kurdistan region using artillery, missile, and drone attacks.

Brigadier-General Esmail Khalilzadeh, Deputy Chief of Operations of Hamzeh Seyyed al-Shohada Command of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps, said the authority of the Iranian Armed Forces in the face of the terrorist groups prevented them from acting militarily against Iran.

Khalilzadeh pointed out that the global arrogance, by organizing and sending elements affiliated with Iran, has put the sinister plan of assassinating the Iranian elites on its agenda.

“In the operations of the last few days, the terrorists’ headquarters was completely destroyed and also a number of terrorist groups that were stationed on the Turkish-Iranian border seeking to sow discord, were targeted,” the military official highlighted.

Khalilzadeh stated that in the recent operations of the IRGC, the terrorists suffered significant casualties, and lots of equipment, including explosives, were confiscated of them.

Iran Has Largest Artificial Intelligence Companies in Region

TEHRAN (MNA) –Vice President for Science and Technology Sorena Sattari said that Iran has the largest knowledge-based companies in the field of artificial intelligence in the region.

Stating that Iran has the largest knowledge-based companies in the field of artificial intelligence in the region, Sattari said, “There is currently a company with 500 people working there in the field of artificial intelligence programming, and this is an honor for the country.”



“Iran is playing the leading role in the region in the fields of fintech, ICT, stem cell, aerospace, and is unrivaled in artificial intelligence,” he added.

“We should pay special attention to financial technologies (Fintech) which are new players in this fields,” he noted. Previously, Sattari has said that Iran has the largest startups in the region in various fields of ICT and biotechnology and efforts to develop artificial intelligence have begun in the country with investment in this area and are continuing in earnest.

Tehran Provides Refugees, Immigrants with Free Coronavirus Treatment

TEHRAN (IFP) - The spokeswoman for Iran’s Ministry of Health says based on the announcement of the Minister, all health services provided to the foreign nationals and immigrants suffering from the novel Coronavirus will be free of charge.

Sima-Sadat Lari said due to the spread of the Coronavirus and the importance of creating sustainable health in the country, non-Iranian citizens, like the Iranians, will receive COVID-19 health services free of charge.

She said the Islamic Republic’s belief in creating sustainable health in the country has made it possible to provide health services to non-Iranians like the Iranian citizens because the basics of human rights, religion and the dignity of human beings say such services must be given to this population.

“Due to its special geographical location in the last four decades, the Islamic Republic of Iran has welcomed a large number of immigrants and refugees from other countries, especially Afghanistan,” she underlined.

She further maintained that in this regard, health and medical personnel have been deployed in hotels and bases providing health and medical services to refugees and non-Iranian citizens since March 2020. People at high risk are also screened and their information recorded. In this respect, expert and technical meetings have been held with the organizations responsible for screening COVID-19 in the population of refugees and non-Iranian immigrants, and guidelines for the care and management of the disease in hotels have been developed.

Tehran, Bishkek Discuss Expansion of Economic Ties

TEHRAN (MNA) – The ambassadors of Iran and Kyrgyzstan to Russia met in Moscow on Sunday to discuss bilateral ties between Tehran and Bishkek.

Iran’s Kazem Jalali and Kyrgyzstan’s Alikbek Dzhekshenkulovich Dzhekshenkulov conferred on a host of issues and explored the avenues for boosting economic cooperation between the two countries.

The Iranian ambassador offered his condolences to the Kyrgyz nation over the lives claimed by the coronavirus.

He expressed Iran’s readiness for the continuation of humanitarian assistance to Kyrgyzstan in the battle against the pandemic.

The two sides also discussed the ways of providing medicine with favorable conditions for both countries.

The Kyrgyz ambassador also announced his country’s readiness to propel major economic projects with Tehran and increase exports of meat and agricultural products to Iran.

They also stressed the need to strengthen parliamentary cooperation between Kyrgyzstan and Iran.



Iran, Number One Shipbuilder In Middle East

BANDAR ABBAS (IRNA) - Iran Shipbuilding and Offshore Industries Complex (ISOICO), located in southern Iranian province of Hormuzgan, is now the number one shipbuilder of the Middle East after four decades of activity in the industry.

With a large number of specialized workforce, ISOICO has continued to gain lots of achievements for the country despite the sanctions and coronavirus disease (COVID-19). The achievements of ISOICO have much to do with the country’s special status in energy industry, and the oil fields in the region, as well as numerous ships commuting in the regional waters.

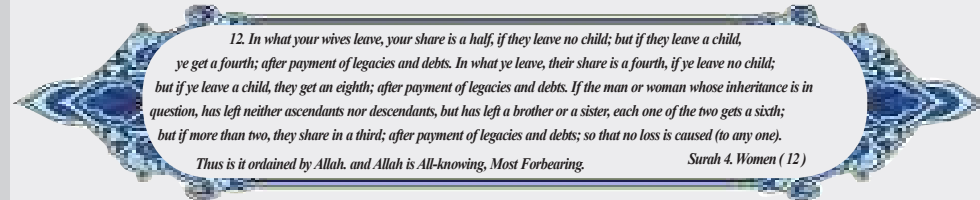
The company provides equipment for building and overhauling different types of small- and medium-sized vessels. Shipbuilding is a main industry in any country, with coastal shipyard in particular, cutting dependence on foreign countries.

The imposition of sanctions has not been able to impede the activity of the company over the past decade but has also inspired it to make more achievements. The company has been active in the area of building and overhauling different types of vessels in different sizes, and building offshore structures such as oil rigs and gas fields since 1973.



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	12:59
■ Evening (Maghreb)	19:31
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	05:22
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:47



Iran, China Sign MOU to Cooperate In Small Industries

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO) and China in an online ceremony signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to cooperate in small industries.

In an online ceremony held between officials of ISIPO and Deputy Head of Science and Technology Organization of Guangdong Province of China Mr. Wu Hong, both sides signed a MOU on international cooperation partnership program.

During the ceremony, the head of ISIPO Mr. Mohsen Salehinia emphasized developing cooperation between small industries of both states, adding that regarding successful cooperations between ISIPO and China International Small and Medium Enterprises Fair(CISMEF) in the past years, the ground and enough experience has been gained for developing industrial and trade relations.

He added that so far 50 Iranian companies have attended this exhibition in China where they both put on display their products and signed agreements for cooperation.

On ISIPO's program for attending international exhibition on small industries in China, he said the organization had planned for good turnout of Iranian companies in



the exhibition but the Coronavirus pandemic made the organization look for other patterns for new cooperation and partake in the exhibition.

Salehinia added that the organization is to boost Iranian companies' presence in the exhibition in cooperation with its Chinese cooperation and this MoU can help it.

He expressed hope that by implementing the MoU, both sides can share their experiences in order to ease cooperation between private sectors of both countries.

Meanwhile Mr. Wu said Iran is an important trade partner of China in the West Asia and both sides have enjoyed very good cooperation in the economic and trade fields.

He reiterated that the MoU would open a new chapter in bilateral cooperation and developing long term cooperation in the small and medium-sized industries.

Developing Phase 14 of S. Pars Is IDRO's National Concern and Priority



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Deputy Industry, Mine and Trade and Head of Industrial Development and Renovation Organization of Iran (IDRO) during his visit to Phase 14 of South Pars project said that acceleration and progress of the project is a national concern and IDRO's priority.

Mr. Amir Bayat said IDRO as the first developmental organization of the country with over half a century experience constantly implements mega and vital projects in the country and acceleration in completion of this project is a national concern and priority for IDRO.

He then pointed to IDRO's experience and knowledge during implementation of phases 1, 6, 7, 8, 17 and 18 of South Pars and called it an advantage and national asset which has been gained and manifested the most in the phase 14 due to the trust of oil ministry and domestic capabilities.

Bayat pointed to registration of honorable records in the offshore sector, manufacture of platforms and marine structures in the phase 14 of South Pars by domestic experts in the affiliated companies of IDRO, adding that this organization as the leader of consortium of manufacturers of phase 14 of South Pars ultimately sees its approach and concern in accompanying Oil Ministry and acceleration in implementing this national mega project during the economic war condition.

He also called for continuation of support by the oil ministry for fully Iranian consortium of manufacturers of Phase 14 with carrying out the proposal of Petroleum University of Technology regarding the completion of expertise assessments for construction of this mega national project.

Necessity of Supporting Officers of Economic War in Tough Condition

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Head of Credits Directorate of Export Development Bank of Iran (EDBI) says regarding the cruel sanctions and tough condition for production and trade because of the Coronavirus pandemic, exporters should not be left alone in the scene of economic war.



Speaking on a TV program held on surge in production and financial support of exporters, Mr. Seyed Hossein Hosseini said that EDBI through its branches in the country is ready to offer services to applicants for granting facilities like different types of guarantee letters, opening L/Cs and export consultation to exporters in different fields.

He added that exporters in the current condition of the country are officers of the economic war, adding that due to cruel imposed sanctions and current tough economic and trade condition due to the pandemic, exporters should not be left alone in the scene of economic war.

He added that EDBI is in favorable condition in terms of its rial sources, adding that the priority of the bank is to provide rial sources for exporters but those companies which need forex facilities for imports of equipment and raw materials can get facilities with observing the country's condition.

Hosseini added that all facilities are granted based on the approved rates of Money and Credit Council and the lowest rate for banking facilities is 5.14 percent. He also emphasized the interactions between the bank and exporters for offering services.

“National Rail” in Rail Network an Honor for National Industry

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

ISFAHAN - On the sidelines of opening ceremony of the 20th International Exhibition of Building and Construction Industry, Minister of Roads and Urban Development Dr. Mohammad Eslami hailed the hard-working workers and managers of Esfahan Steel Company (ESCO) for the growth and development of national industry.

Dr. Eslami said that one of the industrial and production honors of the country is the production of “national rail” by strongmen of ESCO, and his ministry has fulfilled its pledges regarding utilizing national rail,



and currently rails produced by ESCO are used in the national rail lines.

He added that he expresses hope that experts of ESCO would use their endeavors and determination like the past for producing more national rails to meet the country's needs.

Dr. Eslami also said strengthening the buildings by using the latest world technologies and leaving the old traditional methods behind is very important in this regard, adding that optimization in building and using the standard construction materials and moving towards new technologies construction is a must. He also pointed to the hike in the price of housing in recent months and blamed the parallel markets for the rise, expressing hope that peace and stability would return to the housing sector by people's restraint from buying.



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CALL FOR PUBLIC TENDER

(FIRST/SECOND PUBLISH) TWO STAGES (SEMI COMPRESSED) TENDER

Subject of Tender: (TUBING HANGER ACC.)

Tender descriptions:

The Tender holder	Registration No. through national electronic tendering system	Tender No. /Indent No.	Estimated value (Rial)
National Iranian Drilling Company	17985204	TenderNo. PFP/PH-14/98/001 Indent No: 48-22-9722001	6,961,644,000

Qualitative evaluation of tenderers

Method	Based on minimum scoring (50) 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	A) Hall No.316, 3th floor, Foreign Procurement Dept.(DRILLING PROJECTS), National Iranian Drilling Company, After Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN.06134148329 B) jomhour street , yaghma alley nioc 8th building floor no : 04 room no 428 –tehran -iran .02166700249
Documents Receiving Method	Submitting Method	• Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt in the amount of Iranian Rials under account number 4001114004020491 (Shaba No. IR520100004001114004020491) in name of “NIDC Incomes Centralized Fund” issued by I.R. Of Iran Central Bank. • 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.107,1st floor,Tender committee, Operation building, National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN. Tel: +98-61-34148580 +98-61-34148569

Tender Guarantee

Value of guarantee	349,000,000 Rial/ 1,340 Euro
Type of guarantee	Bank guarantees or guarantees issued by non-bank institutions that obtain activity license from the central bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt under account number 4001114006376636 (Shaba No. IR350100004001114006376636) in name of “NIDC saving account” by the central bank of Islamic Republic of Iran.
Duration of credit & quotation	Tender Guarantee and quotation should be valid for 90 days and extendable maximum for one time in initial validity duration.

(Foreign Procurement Dept.)

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

Note

The above tender was to be published on September 13 edition but due to technical problem is published today

Group of Lawmakers Visit MAPNA Group

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – A group of Majlis lawmakers paid a visit to MAPNA Group plants.



According to reports, lawmakers during their visit got acquainted with capabilities of the group in field of manufacturing equipment and offering technical and engineering services of the group.

During the visit, the CEO of MAPNA Mr. Abbas Aliabadi said that the group is moving in direction of improving and developing it by implementing proper policies in order to overcome the economic challenges.

He went on to say that to improve the environment condition and to stop the growth of CO₂, using renewable energies, digitalization and electrification of systems should be noticed more than ever.

Mr. Aliabadi pointed to the actions taken in MAPNA regarding electrification of vehicles, adding that beside electrification of vehicles, the batteries of electric vehicles are important and MAPNA Group has done good researches and proper investment in this regard.

He emphasized big economic developments in different levels of the country, adding that passing appropriate laws for domestic production and boom in production as well as supporting export of technical and engineering, electrification and combined cycle are vital for the country and future of its children.

He also said strengthening national economy and combatting smuggling of goods are very important, adding that elimination of some trade regulations and approving new laws in support of domestic industries are prerequisites of combatting the smuggling.

MAPNA Group is a group of Iranian companies involved in development and execution of thermal and renewable power plants, oil & gas, railway transportation and other industrial projects

Mali Military Backs 18-Month Transition Gov't

PARIS (Dispatches) - Mali's military government has pushed through a political charter to establish an 18-month transition government that could lead to the appointment of a soldier as interim president, despite objections from the coalition that led anti-government protests before last month's coup.

Approval for the road map, meant to chart the country's course after the August 18 coup that toppled President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, came on Saturday after three days of negotiations between the military government, political leaders, and civil society groups.



U.S. Deeply Concerned Over Turkey Actions in Mediterranean

NICOSIA (Reuters) - The United States remains "deeply concerned" about Turkey's actions in the eastern Mediterranean, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Saturday, urging a diplomatic end to a simmering crisis over offshore natural resources.

Tensions in the eastern Mediterranean have risen over claims and counter claims pitting Turkey against Greece and Cyprus to maritime areas thought to be rich in natural gas. "Countries in the region need to resolve disagreements including on security and energy resource and maritime issues diplomatically and peacefully," Pompeo said in a fleeting trip to Cyprus on Saturday night, where he met with President Nicos Anastasiades.



Palestinians Rally Against Bahrain-Israel Normalization



GAZA (Dispatches) - Palestinians in Gaza burned pictures of Israeli, American, Bahraini, and United Arab Emirates leaders on Saturday in protest against the two Persian Gulf countries' moves to normalise ties with Israel. Bahrain on Friday joined the UAE in agreeing to normalise relations with Israel, a move forged partly through shared fears of Iran but one that could leave the Palestinians further isolated.

The Gaza protest, attended by a few dozen people, was organised by the ruling group Hamas.

"We have to fight the virus of normalisation and block all its paths before it succeeds to prevent it from spreading," said Hamas official Maher al-Holy.

Demonstrators set fire to images of US President Donald Trump, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and the UAE's Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

While the United States, Israel, the UAE, and Bahrain hail the diplomatic moves as a significant step towards peace and stability in the Middle East, the Palestinians see it as a betrayal.

They fear a weakening of a long-standing pan-Arab position that calls for Israeli withdrawal from occupied territory and acceptance of Palestinian statehood in return for normal relations with Arab countries.

Despite a deep political rift going back to 2007, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, whose Palestinian Authority (PA) has a limited rule in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, and his Hamas rivals have been united against the Persian Gulf states' move.

In the West Bank, Secretary-General of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Saeb Erekat said the diplomatic push will not achieve peace if the decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict is not resolved first.

"The Bahraini, Israeli, American agreement to normalise relations is now part of a bigger package in the region. It isn't about peace, it is not about relations between countries. We are witnessing an alliance, a military alliance being created in the region," Erekat said.

Bahrainis opposed to their government's agreement to establish diplomatic relations with Israel vented their frustration on social media on Saturday, underlining the complexities of the Persian Gulf's rapprochement with Israel.

The hashtags #Bahrainis_against_normalisation and #NormalizationIsBetrayal were trending on Twitter after Trump announced the deal late on Friday.

Bahrain, a Sunni-ruled kingdom with a large Shia population, shares with Israel a deep enmity towards Iran, and relies on the United States, which stations its Fifth Fleet on the tiny but strategic archipelago.

Afghan Peace Talks Open With Calls for Ceasefire, Women's Rights



DOHA (Reuters) - Afghan government representatives and Taliban insurgents gathered on Saturday for historic peace talks aimed at ending two decades of war that has killed tens of thousands of combatants and civilians.

Ahead of face-to-face negotiations in coming days, the warring sides were urged by various countries and groups to reach an immediate ceasefire and forge an agreement that upholds women's rights.

The government of U.S. President Donald Trump, who is eager to claim an end to America's longest conflict as he seeks re-election, expressed its intention to use aid as leverage for a deal.

The opening ceremony came one day after the 19th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on the United States that triggered its military involvement in Afghanistan. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo urged the warring sides to seize

the opportunity to strike a comprehensive peace deal, while acknowledging many challenges lay ahead.

"The choice of your political system is yours to make," he told the opening ceremony in the Qatari capital Doha. "We believe firmly that protecting the rights of all Afghans is the best way for you to break the cycle of violence."

The head of Afghanistan's peace council, Abdullah Abdullah, said that even if the two sides could not agree on all points, they should compromise.

"My delegation are in Doha representing a political system that is supported by millions of men and women from a diversity of cultural, social and ethnic backgrounds in our homeland," he said.

Taliban leader Mullah Baradar Akhund said that Afghanistan should "have an Islamic system in which all tribes and ethnicities of the country find themselves without any discrimination and live their lives in love and brotherhood."

Pompeo warned that the size and scope of future U.S. financial assistance to the country, which relies heavily on international funding, would depend on their "choices and conduct".

Belarus Police Detain Dozens of Protesters at Anti-Gov't Rally

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Police detained at least 46 protesters on Saturday as thousands of people gathered in the Belarus capital Minsk demanding the release of a jailed opposition leader, the latest in a wave of mass protests following a disputed election.

Maria Kolesnikova, 38, has emerged as a key opposition figure after others were either jailed or forced out of the country, including Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya who challenged President Alexander Lukashenko in the presidential election.

Protesters say the Aug. 9 election was rigged to hand Lukashenko a phoney landslide win and that Tsikhanouskaya - who has since fled to Lithuania - was the real winner. Lukashenko, who has been in power for 26 years, denies this and has said foreign powers are behind the protests.

At least 5,000 protesters, many of them women, gathered in central Minsk on Saturday, chanting "Go away!" in reference to Lukashenko, and "Masha" - a common alternative for Maria - in support of Kolesnikova, a Reuters witness said. "Sveta is my president, Masha is my queen," read one of the slogans held up in the crowd. Police started detaining people shortly after the protests started at 1200 GMT. As of 1650 GMT, at least 46 were held in police stations, mostly women, according to the Spring human rights group.

Kolesnikova was driven to the Ukrainian border earlier this week after being seen snatched off the streets of Minsk and into a van by masked men.

According to two allies who were with her, she prevented an attempt to expel her from Belarus by tearing her passport up into small pieces and throwing it out of a car window. She is now detained in Minsk, and faces a potential long prison term over accusations of trying to seize power illegally.

Tsikhanouskaya, who stood against Lukashenko in place of her better-known husband who was detained before election, called on Saturday for the police to stop cracking down on dissent.

French Yellow Vests Tussle With Police as Paris Protests Resume

PARIS (Reuters) - French police fired tear gas and arrested more than 250 people in Paris on Saturday as they tussled with "yellow vest" protesters seeking to revive an anti-government movement curbed by a coronavirus lockdown this year.

The "yellow vests", named after motorists' high-visibility jackets, emerged in late 2018 in protest against fuel taxes and the cost of living, posing a major challenge to President Emmanuel Macron as demonstrations spread across France.

By midday on Saturday, hundreds of demonstrators had gathered at the starting points of two authorised marches in Paris.

While one cortege proceeded without incident, the other march was aborted as police clashed with groups who left the designated route and set fire to waste bins and a car.

Some protesters wore black clothes and carried the flag of an anti-fascist movement, suggesting the presence of radical demonstrators dubbed

"black blocks" often blamed for violence at street marches in France.

The police repeatedly used tear gas to counter small groups of roaming protesters, before they dispersed towards the end of the afternoon.

Police had made 256 arrests by 6 p.m. (1600 GMT), with many for carrying items like tools that could be used as weapons.

A heavy police presence notably worked to prevent protesters reaching the Champs-Elysees. The famous shopping avenue was the scene of rioting at the height of the "yellow vest" movement, and many stores there were boarded up on Saturday.

The return of the protests comes as France grapples with a resurgence in coronavirus cases that set a daily high on Thursday at nearly 10,000.

Police had called on Saturday's demonstrators to respect coronavirus measures in Paris, which is among France's high-risk "red zones" and where it is compulsory to wear a face mask in the street.



Teargas Fired During Migrant Protests on Greek Island of Lesbos



ATHENS (Dispatches) - Greek riot police fired tear gas at protesting asylum seekers on Lesbos island on Saturday as tensions simmered following the catastrophic fire that ripped through Europe's largest migrant camp this week.

Thousands of asylum seekers have been sleeping rough on Lesbos since Wednesday when the Moria camp was destroyed in apparent arson attacks, with families huddling under blankets and sleeping in doorways or by roads.

Clashes occurred on Saturday near a new temporary camp built by Greek authorities where hundreds of young men gathered to protest, some throwing stones at riot police who responded with tear gas.

A fire set there earlier in the day near a police blockade had to be extinguished by the fire brigade.

"Freedom!" said one handwritten sign held up by a protester. "We want to leave Moria," said another.

"We were protesting peacefully against the new camp and the police threw tear gas against us. My baby had the gas in her eyes!", Zola, a Congolese woman carrying her 5-month-old baby, told AFP.

"In Moria we could come and go but this (new camp) will be like a prison". Some people suffering from respiratory problems because of the tear gas were taken away in ambulances, according to the migrants.

"Three people have fainted and were taken to the hospital", Papouch, a Congolese man, told AFP.

Round-the-clock efforts to find temporary shelter for over 11,000 people made homeless by the destruction of the Moria camp were still inadequate, rights groups said.

"As thousands are now left sleeping rough in the hills around Moria or on the streets, tensions between local residents, asylum seekers, and police are increasing," Human Rights Watch warned in a statement on Saturday.

The Moria camp, which had been regularly criticised by the UN and rights groups for overcrowding and its dismal sanitary conditions, burned down in successive fires on Tuesday night and Wednesday.

Velenjak Apt (\$2500)
200sq.m, 3bdrs
S/p, Sauna
J, balcony
marble fl
Fully Furn

Shanon (adviser)

Darrous Villa (\$4000)
1000sq.m
5bdrs, S/p
S, J, & pkg
green garden
Fully Furn

Parsian

Nice mountain view
Farmanieh Apt (\$2300)
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Sauna, J, balcony, & F.F

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European Economy Is Recovering Better Than Expected

BERLIN (Reuters) - The European economy is recovering much better than many had feared at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, German Finance Minister Olaf Scholz said on Saturday, adding that governments should nonetheless continue to support companies and consumers.

"The pandemic is not over, but the indicators ... show that the economy is recovering much better than we feared some time ago, and that is something that applies to the European Union as a whole but also to the individual member states," Scholz told reporters at the end of an informal meeting of the 27 EU finance ministers in Berlin.



Johnson Accuses EU of Using Threatening Food Blockade

LONDON (Reuters) - British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has accused the European Union of threatening to impose a trade border down the Irish Sea and a food blockade between Britain and Northern Ireland unless the bloc's terms for a future relationship were agreed.

Johnson's government said this week it planned to break international law by breaching part of the Brexit Withdrawal Agreement treaty signed in January when Britain left the bloc, saying it needed a new law to protect free trade between the four constituent nations of the United Kingdom.

That move has soured relations between London and Brussels, and increased the likelihood that trade talks between Britain and the EU will fail and that no deal will be struck before a post-Brexit transition period ends in December.

Writing in the Daily Telegraph newspaper, Johnson said he had become "anxious" in the last few weeks that the EU might have misunderstood the terms of the Brexit divorce deal which includes a Northern Ireland protocol designed to prevent any hard border between the British province and the Irish republic.

"We are now hearing that, unless we agree to the EU's terms, the EU will use an extreme interpretation of the Northern Ireland protocol to impose a full-scale trade border down the Irish Sea," Johnson wrote in the Daily Telegraph newspaper.

"We are being told that the EU will not only impose tariffs on goods moving from Great Britain to Northern Ireland, but that they might actually stop the transport of food products from GB to NI."

He cast the EU stance as both a risk to the United Kingdom and to peace in Northern Ireland, where the 1998 Good Friday agreement largely ended 30 years of sectarian violence.

"We have to protect the UK from that disaster, and that is why we have devised a legal safety net - in the UK Internal Market Bill - to clarify the position and to sort out the inconsistencies," Johnson wrote.

"So let's end any potential for misunderstanding. Let's remove this danger to the very fabric of the United Kingdom. Let's make the EU take their threats off the table."

Moody's Downgrades Turkey to 'B2'

LONDON (Dispatches) - Moody's Investor Services downgraded Turkey's credit rating deeper into non-investment grade territory, citing its worsening external vulnerabilities, eroding fiscal buffers and institutional challenges.

The agency downgraded Turkey's sovereign issuer and senior unsecured debt ratings to B2 from B1, five notches below investment grade, and maintained a negative outlook on the country. The rate cut puts Turkey on par with Tanzania, Rwanda and Jamaica.

"Turkey's external vulnerabilities are increasingly likely to crystallise in a balance of payments crisis," Moody's said. "As the risks to Turkey's credit profile increase, the country's institutions appear to be unwilling or unable to effectively address these challenges."

Moody's downgrade comes three weeks after Fitch Ratings revised its outlook on Turkey's long-term issuer default ratings to negative from stable. That revision was a result of the country's financial risks increasing due to a depletion of foreign exchange reserves, weak monetary policy credibility, negative real interest rates, and a sizeable current account deficit, partly fuelled by a strong credit stimulus.

Moody's maintained its negative outlook on Turkey, saying that fiscal metrics could deteriorate in the coming year at a faster pace than currently expected.

It also warned of "elevated levels" of geopolitical risk, given that Turkey's relationship with the U.S. and the European Union as well as tensions in the eastern Mediterranean could accelerate a crisis.

Turkey's foreign-exchange reserves, excluding gold, have plunged more than 40 per cent since in the beginning of the year to \$44.9 billion as of September 4, according to the ratings agency.

The country's foreign-currency reserves have been declining for years but are now at a multi-decade low as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) because of the central bank's unsuccessful attempts to defend the lira since the beginning of 2020.

Moody's forecasts that the country's external vulnerability indicator (EVI), a measure of the adequacy of foreign currency reserves to cover external debt repayments and non-resident deposits, will rise to 409 per cent in 2021 from 263 per cent in 2019. This represents higher exposure to changes in international investor sentiment.

Furthermore, dollarization, the process of aligning a country's currency with the US dollar, has become a significant issue for Turkey that increases the risk of a balance of payments crisis, Moody's said.

Currently, political pressures, limited central bank independence, a slow reaction of the monetary authorities and a lack of predictability of their reactions, increases the probability of a "disorderly exchange rate and economic adjustment," the agency said.

While inflation remains well above target, the central bank has taken "only modest" action to tighten monetary policy. Moody's warned that the longer this continues, the more likely there will be "continued downward pressure" on the currency.

Turkey also suffers from labour-market "rigidities" that reduce job creation while productivity is also weak, Moody's said.

"Making structural changes that address these fundamental challenges can inflict short-term pain on the economy and the benefits of reform could take years to materialise," the agency said.

Credit growth has remained high in 2020 due to measures taken by the central bank to support domestic demand during the Covid-19 pandemic. While some of the measures are being withdrawn now, credit growth will remain high through the end of 2020, according to Moody's.

In terms of fiscal performance, weak growth and measures to manage the economic fallout from the pandemic will widen the deficit in 2020. Moody's forecasts that it will rise to 7.5 per cent of the GDP.

The agency also forecasts the government debt burden will increase to 42.9 per cent in 2020 from 32.5 per cent in 2019.

U.S. Budget Deficit Tops \$3 Trillion

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The coronavirus pandemic has pushed the U.S. federal budget deficit above \$3 trillion for the first 11 months of fiscal 2020, more than doubling the previous full-year record, the U.S. Treasury said.

The budget deficit for August was \$200 billion, matching the deficit in August 2019 but lower than the \$245 billion forecast by analysts in a Reuters poll. However, \$55 billion worth of benefit payments were shifted into July because August started on a weekend.

The \$3.007 trillion year-to-date deficit was nearly triple the \$1.067 trillion deficit for the comparable year-ago period, spurred by a massive increase in government spending to battle the economic fallout from the pandemic.

The previous 11-month deficit record was \$1.37 trillion, reported by the Treasury in August 2009 during the financial crisis and recession. The full fiscal 2009 deficit totaled \$1.4 trillion.

Concerns about ballooning deficits have stoked opposition by some Republicans in Congress to spending trillions of dollars more on a new round of coronavirus aid programs. This has helped to stall negotiations between Democrats and the Trump administration.

The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office has projected the full-year 2020 U.S. deficit to reach \$3.3 trillion, or 16% of GDP, the highest share since the end of World War Two.

August budget outlays were \$423 billion, compared with \$428 billion in August 2019 and \$626 billion in July 2020. Labor-related outlays, largely unemployment benefits, fell to \$55 billion in August from \$110 billion in July after a \$600-a-week federal unemployment supplement expired on July 31.

Receipts in August were \$223 billion, compared with \$228 billion in the year-earlier period. While taxes collected from paycheck withholdings fell by \$11 billion from a year earlier, non-withheld tax payments were up \$4 billion due to a processing backlog from the delayed July 15 tax deadline, a Treasury official said.

Earnings from the Federal Reserve soared in August by \$5 billion compared with a year earlier from earnings on the Fed's massively expanded bond holdings and lower interest payments on bank reserves.

The Treasury's interest costs on public debt rose \$7 billion in August compared with a year earlier as borrowing expanded massively. But debt costs were \$53 billion lower for the first 11 months of 2020 versus a year earlier due to lower interest rates.

India Inc Likely to Speed Up Foreign Fund-Raising Plans



MUMBAI (Dispatches) - Overseas borrowing by Indian Corporates is likely to accelerate with favourable and steady borrowing costs, supported by stable outlook for the rupee.

Adequacy indicators, such as import cover and short-term debt to reserves, remain the strongest in more than a decade - unlike for many EM peers.

Indian firms obtained ECB (External Commercial Borrowings) sanctions worth \$ 3.5 billion or an estimated Rs 26,000 crore in April-June 2020, show latest RBI data. This is about one-third of the sum - \$11.9 billion-they borrowed in the same period a year ago.

"Surging reserves and rising ammunition to keep the currency stable will provide corporates the optionality to look at foreign sources of financing, as borrowing costs overseas remain low," said Rahul Bajoria, chief economist at Barclays India. "The rise in reserves is largely a reflection of a current account surplus augmenting capital inflows."

U.S. 10-year Treasury Bill, a global gauge for pricing bonds, yielded 0.68 percent versus 1.88 percent at the beginning of this year. This should bring borrowers' funding costs lower unless the risk perception changes. During the same period, the six-month London Interbank Offer Rate (LIBOR), another international metric, dropped 162 basis points. A basis point is 0.01 percentage point.

The Reliance Group, the Adanis, and the Aditya Birla Group are among the largest companies to have borrowed overseas. Similarly, last-mile-lenders Shriram Transport Finance, Mahindra Finance, and IIFL also raised overseas credit.

The rupee, after initial losses this year, has turned out to be the best performing in the last one month. It gained 1.68 percent against the dollar, show data compiled by ETIG.

An appreciating local currency reduces the burden of global repayments for local borrowers.

Singapore Continues to Draw Investments From Global Players

DUBAI (Dispatches) - Singapore's business-friendly reputation continues to draw foreign investments - particularly from the technology sector - the dismal global economic climate notwithstanding.

Among the firms upping their stakes in Singapore is German logistics firm DB Schenker, which in May started operating a high-tech warehouse in the free trade zone of the Airport Logistics Park of Singapore in Changi.

The firm will be adding more than 250 positions here, in areas such as artificial intelligence, data analytics and process engineering, its vice-president for contract logistics and supply chain management Catherine Soo told The Straits Times yesterday.

Its \$163 million Red Lion warehouse at the logistics park, the company's largest investment globally, spans over 550,000 sq ft - the size of seven football fields - across five floors.



The facility, its 13th here, brings DB Schenker's footprint in Singapore to 2.8 million sq ft.

The logistics firm is a unit of German rail operator Deutsche Bahn.

Meanwhile, Chinese tech start-up ByteDance also looks set to shore up its presence here.

The Beijing-based owner of video-sharing app TikTok, which has 400 staff in Singapore, is looking to spend several billion dollars and add hundreds of jobs here over the next three years, sources told wire agencies Bloomberg and Reuters yesterday.

TikTok has also reportedly moved some engineers to Singapore from China this year.

China Tops Italy's List of Non-EU Import Partners in 2019

ROME (Dispatches) - Italy imported more from China than from any other non-European Union (EU) countries in 2019, showed the

annual "Blue Book" released by Italy's Customs and Monopolies Agency.

The list of the top non-EU countries from which Italy imported goods was headed by China, followed by the United States, Turkey, Russia, and Switzerland, according to the 600-page "Blue Book."

The United States bought around 45.1 billion euros (53.4 billion U.S. dollars) worth of Italian exports last year, making it Italy's largest buyer outside the EU. It was followed by Switzerland, with 24.0 billion euros, and China with 13.8 billion euros. The totals were mostly accumulated before the United States raised import tariffs on an array of European products late last year. Both lists excluded trade from EU member states, since trade within the 27-nation bloc is not taxed by customs agencies.

Overall, Italy's exports to non-EU countries continued the trend of increasing in terms of value last year, rising by 5.2 percent compared to the previous year. Imports increased by 8.0 percent year-on-year.

However, agency officials said those trends would be reversed when data is totaled for this year, due to the economic impacts of the global coronavirus outbreak.

Iran Western Borders Resume Normal Activities

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Border restrictions to contain coronavirus pandemic were lifted on Mehran and Shalamcheh, western Iran with resumption of normal activities.

Iranian Customs Administration spokesman Roohollah Latifi said that upon the agreement of Iraqi officials, Mehran border had increased its working days from two days a week to four days. He added that Mehran border will be open the whole week except Friday for doing customs protocols. Chazabeh Border will also be active for exports affairs entire days of the week.



EU and China to Talk Trade as Tensions Mount

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) - EU leaders hold video talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping today hoping to make progress on trade and investment, even as tensions mount between Beijing and the West over Hong Kong and the treatment of minority Uighurs.

The virtual meeting between top Chinese officials and EU Council President Charles Michel, European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, replaces a full summit with all 27 European leaders which had to be cancelled because of coronavirus.

China has said an investment deal already seven years in the making can be agreed by the end of the year, but EU officials warn significant obstacles remain and insist they will not agree to unfavourable terms simply to cut a deal.

“Even if there is a political objective to accelerate negotiations and conclude them by the end of the year, we will have this only if it is something worth having,” an EU official said.

Brussels says “significant progress” has been made in talks since a similar video summit in June, and officials hope to agree a “roadmap” to get a deal done by the end of the year, but they also warn Beijing needs to do more to improve market access for European companies.

Brussels wants to reinforce respect for intellectual property, end obligations to transfer technology and see a reduction in subsidies for Chinese public enterprises.

No major breakthrough is expected on Monday but the EU side hopes to persuade Xi, China’s paramount leader, to give fresh political impetus to the talks -- and to allow his negotiators more room to compromise.

The meeting comes as ties between China and the US deteriorate, with both sides locked in fierce recriminations over trade disputes, human rights and the origins of the coronavirus pandemic.

Washington and Beijing this week imposed reciprocal curbs on each other’s diplomats, after another tit-for-tat in July when the two governments ordered the closure of consulates in Houston and Chengdu.



Both sides have sought to enlist the EU in their spat, and during a visit to Brussels by U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in June, the EU’s diplomatic chief Josep Borrell mooted talks to forge a common transatlantic front against China.

But little progress has been made on this initiative and broadly Brussels has preferred to forge a middle path, treating Beijing as both a potential partner and a “systemic rival”.

“The EU stands firm on its interests and values but also wants to cooperate with China,” a senior EU official said.

Pompeo and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi have both toured European capitals over the summer seeking to drum up support. “What is absolutely important in this is the EU would not become a battleground for these tensions, but the EU would be a stabilising factor and defend its own interests and universal values,” the official said.

Oxford, AstraZeneca To Resume Covid-19 Vaccine Trial



LONDON (Dispatches) - Oxford University says trials of a coronavirus vaccine that it is developing with pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca will resume, days after being paused due to a reported side-effect in a patient in the U.K.

In a statement, the university said in large trials such as this “it is expected that some participants will become unwell and every case must be carefully evaluated to ensure careful assessment of safety.”

It said that globally some 18,000 people have received the vaccine as part of the trial. It would not disclose information about the patient’s illness for reasons of participant confidentiality but insisted that it is “committed to the safety of our participants and the highest standards of conduct in our studies and will continue to monitor safety closely.”

Pauses in drug trials are commonplace.

The study had been previously stopped in July for several days after a participant who got the vaccine developed neurological symptoms; it turned out to be an undiagnosed case of multiple sclerosis that was unrelated to the vaccine.

Late last month, AstraZeneca began recruiting 30,000 people in the U.S. for its largest study of the vaccine. It also is testing the vaccine in thousands of people in Britain, and in smaller studies in Brazil and South Africa. Several other COVID-19 vaccine candidates are in development.

Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, the World Health Organization’s chief scientist, said the U.N. health agency wasn’t overly concerned by the pause in the Oxford and AstraZeneca vaccine trial, describing it as “a wake-up call” to the global community about the inevitable ups and downs of medical research.

“Nomadland” Wins Top Prize at Venice Film Festival

VENICE (ITALY) - “Nomadland” by director Chloe Zhao won top prize at the Venice film festival on Saturday, the first woman to win the prize in a decade.

The film, an ode to American wanderlust and the highs and lows of the open road, won the Golden Lion in a competition billed as a relaunch of global cinema bruised by the coronavirus crisis.

Starring Frances McDormand, it is set among the new tribe of ageing van dwellers, down on their luck and roaming the West. The double-Oscar winner plays a widow who takes to the road when she loses her home.

Its Chinese-born director Chloe Zhao picked up the coveted award 10 years after Sofia Coppola’s 2010 win for her film “Somewhere”.

The 77th edition of the “Mostra” festival took place in a year when theatres have been closed, film sets shut down and moviegoers forced to embrace streaming video at home instead, during months of coronavirus-imposed lockdown.

Zhao, 38 is one of Hollywood’s hottest new talents. Variety magazine hailed her last film, “The Rider”, about a rodeo grunt, as a “mini-masterpiece and she currently is making the next Marvel movie, “The Eternals”.

“Nomadland” was loudly applauded when it premiered at Venice Friday and had horns honking at its US premiere hours later at a drive-in cinema in Pasadena, California. The Guardian’s Peter Bradshaw said McDormand’s “quiet, self-effacing performance may be the best of her career”.

Other critics were also in raptures, the Hollywood Reporter calling it “a unique portrait of outsider existence”. Variety said “the movie is a marvel of empathy and introspection”.

Zhao, who cast real van dwellers opposite McDormand, insisted the film was not political.

Many, however, saw it as a subtle allegory on US decline, with its humble heroes clinging onto the last threads of the American Dream.

Normally attended by more than 10,000 film industry executives, critics, journalists and moviegoers, the Venice festival was the first major international movie competition to go ahead after others around the world, including its main rival, the Cannes Film Festival, were cancelled.



Festival director Alberto Barbera called the event “a sort of test” for the film industry, which is slowly regaining its footing, with some production resuming and cinemas reopening, even as Covid-19 cases continue to rise in many parts of the world.

In Italy, the festival was also viewed as a sign of hope and normalcy for the first country in Europe to be battered by the global crisis.

Masks were mandatory, hand sanitiser bountiful, temperatures were taken on entering the festival grounds and ubiquitous red signs warned attendees to respect the anti-coronavirus measures.

Still, organisers said the scaled-down event offered a diverse panorama of cinema today, with 50 different countries represented in the lineup.

Brad Pitt, Meryl Streep and Scarlett Johansson were among those who supplied the celebrity panache at last year’s festival.

But ongoing travel restrictions -- especially a travel ban from the United States into Europe -- meant most Hollywood big names were no-shows this year, along with actors and directors from China, India and South America.

However, Cate Blanchett, as jury president, provided some much-needed star power, telling an opening night audience that the festival’s launch seemed “some kind of wondrous miracle”.

Tehran Offers...

FROM PAGE 1

5. Tehran wants Istanbul to remove the imposed restrictions on the reception of Iranian travelers to Turkey,
6. Iran urges Turkey to increase the time span for receiving Iranian passengers at Gorbalegh Customs,
7. To prevent the congestion of exported goods from Iran in the customs area of Gorbalegh in Turkey, the Turkish government is asked to do its required investigations on the specified Iranian goods at Doğubayazıt border,
8. Iran announced its drivers’ dissatisfaction with the services provided and the lack of sanitary facilities at the Gorbalegh customs parking lot in Turkey and calls for required measures to be taken,
9. Iran wants the acceptance of wagons Kapikoy-Razi border t be increased, and
10. Iran criticized the frequent damages made to Iranian exported goods during assessment procedures carried by the Turkish side at Gorbalegh Customs.

The Iranian official said that the Turkish side, for his part, has asked for lifting of the ban on the imports of 68 items of goods subject to preferential tariffs and finalization of the third phase of the e-TIR project between the two sides.

Severe Vengeance...

FROM PAGE 1

“Rather, the move will ironically further boost the power and determination of the Muslim community to unleash the hidden potential of the anti-Zionist resistance front to eliminate the cancerous tumour of Israel from the geography of the Muslim world,” the statement read.

The statement warned the Al Khalifa ruling regime as well as other rulers who commit acts of betrayal and are in the pay of the global hegemony against paving the way for the Israeli regime to gain a foothold in the strategic region of the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman.

“Like other wicked and traitorous reconciliation deals, the Bahraini ruling regime’s diabolical and disgraceful move will have no achievement for the US and supporters of child-killing Zionists; rather, the move will expose those committing these acts of betrayal and wicked moves to the wrath and revenge of the Islamic community, especially the Shia people of Bahrain,” read the statement.

Iran-China-Russia Joint Exercise To Influence World’ Equation

TEHRAN (MNA) –Referring to an upcoming Iran, China, China, and Russia joint exercise, Iran’s Navy Commander Rear Admiral Hossein Khanzadi made some remarks over Iran’s current naval status.

While speaking in an IRIB TV program, Iran’s Navy Commander Rear Admiral Hossein Khanzadi made some remarks over Iran’s current naval status.

He referred to the reflection of the recent Zolfaghara 99 war game in foreign media, in which one US plane and two drones, that had violated the law and entered the Iranian Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) illegally, were intercepted by homemade Karrar drone, stressing that the important point about this inspiring military exercise is that despite all pressures and sanctions, the Islamic Republic of Iran has accomplished high-tech equipment in defense fields.

Severe Vengeance...

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As reported, the index, fell four percent in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday September 11). Accordingly, the index experienced the fourth weekly drop in a month. It stood at 1,556 million points at the end of the last week.

Meanwhile lawmakers with the presence of the Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance Farhad Dejjasand, and the Governor of the Central Bank of Iran Abdolnaser Hemmati, examined the situation in the capital and stock markets, as well as currency rate fluctuations.

Vinales Takes Pole In Record Time

ROME (Dispatches) - Maverick Vinales produced a new lap record at the Marco Simoncelli circuit on Saturday to claim pole position for the San Marino MotoGP as Yamaha locked out the top four places on the grid. The Spaniard, who had to make a dramatic emergency leap from his bike when it lost its brakes at 210 km/h in the Styrian GP last month, pulled out a sizzling final lap of 1min 31.411sec, beating the previous track record of 1min 31.629 sec.

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Australia Beat England By 19 Runs in 1st ODI

LONDON (Dispatches)- Australia beat England by 19 runs to win the first one-day international at Old Trafford. World champions England, set 295 for victory, finished on 275-9 as Australia defeated their arch-rivals for just the third time in 14 ODIs. Fast bowler Josh Hazlewood reduced the hosts to 22-2 on his way to 3-26 before leg-spinner Adam Zampa (4-55) struck twice in two overs to leave England in dire straits at 57-4.

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SPORTS

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

Liverpool, Arsenal Cruise As Premier League Returns

LONDON (Dispatches) - Mohamed Salah's hat-trick saved Liverpool from an opening day stumble as the defending Premier League champions edged Leeds 4-3 on Saturday, while Arsenal had a much more comfortable start against newly-promoted opposition with a 3-0 win at Fulham.

Just 48 days after last season's delayed conclusion, the Premier League returned with a bang as Liverpool and Leeds, on their return to the top-flight after a 16-year absence, served up a feast of goals to open the 2020-21 campaign.

Jurgen Klopp's side cruised to a first league title in 30 years last season, but Liverpool looked more like the wide open side of the German's early days in charge at Anfield as three times Leeds came from behind.

Salah won a fourth-minute penalty when his shot hit Leeds debutant Robin Koch on his outstretched arm and he dispatched the spot-kick himself.

Leeds fashioned a stunning equaliser in the 12th minute when on-loan Manchester City midfielder Jack Harrison cut past Trent Alexander-Arnold and Joe Gomez before drilling a superb low finish into the bottom corner.

Virgil van Dijk restored Liverpool's lead eight minutes later with a thumping header from Andy Robertson's corner.

Leeds equalised again in the 30th minute when Van Dijk made a hash of a flicked attempt to clear and Patrick Bamford pounced to guide his shot past Alisson Becker.

A remarkable game produced more drama as Salah struck again three minutes later with a thunderous drive into the roof of the net.

Leeds equalised for a third time when Mateusz Klich made a well-timed run to meet Helder Costa's pass with a composed finish in the 66th minute.

But Liverpool won it in the 88th minute when Leeds' record signing Rodrigo tripped Fabinho and Salah slotted in the penalty, leaving Klopp to sum up the feelings of both teams when he mouthed "wow" at the final whistle.

Serena out of Italian Open With Achilles Problem

LONDON (Reuters) - Serena Williams has pulled out of the Italian Open starting on Monday due to an Achilles injury, the former world number one confirmed on Saturday.

Williams' bid for a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam singles title ended with a defeat to Victoria Azarenka at the U.S. Open on Thursday, a match in which she took a medical timeout to have her left ankle re-taped due to the Achilles problem.

"I regretfully must withdraw from The Internazionali BNL d'Italia due to an Achilles strain," Williams, a four-times winner in Rome, said in a statement here.

"I'm so humbled by the continuous support from my fans in Rome and I look forward to making my return soon."

Double Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova, 2019 U.S. Open champion Bianca Andreescu and top-ranked Ash Barty have also pulled out of the tournament.

Dominic Thiem and Alexander Zverev, who will contest the U.S. Open men's final on Sunday, have withdrawn from the event, the organisers said in a statement here.

Kragh Andersen Wins Stage 14 of the Tour de France

LYON (Reuters) - Denmark's Soren Kragh Andersen timed his effort to perfection to win the 14th stage of the Tour de France, a 194.5-km ride from Clermont-Ferrand.

The Team Sunweb rider attacked with just under three kilometres to go and never looked back as Slovenian Luka Mezgec took second place and Italian Simone Consonni came home third, 15 seconds behind.

Slovenian Primož Roglič retained the overall leader's yellow jersey ahead of Sunday 15th stage, a 174.5-km mountain trek ending up the Col du Grand Colombier.

Triple world champion Peter Sagan regained some ground on point classification leader Sam Bennett when he finished fourth after the Irishman was dropped early on and could not fight for victory in the finale.



30-year wait to be crowned Premier League champions following Manchester City's defeat at Chelsea in June.

When Klopp's celebrations with his players at a Liverpool hotel had finally petered out, it was approaching 3.30am but the German was still keen to reply to Ferguson's message.

He did not anticipate the 78-year-old Scot would still have his phone on by his



"Leeds are special. I said it before the game and in the game everybody saw it obviously," said Klopp admiringly of Bielsa's men. "The way they play, the way they defend, the way they go into challenges was really, really good – and for 95 minutes, by the way!"

"I'm completely fine with the game. Offensively, it was good; and defensively, we can improve and we will improve." At Craven Cottage, Arsenal hit the ground running with the kind of confident display that has become their hallmark since Mikel Arteta took charge.

Willian starred on his Gunners debut with three assists for Alexandre Lacazette, fellow new-signing Gabriel Magalhaes and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang.

After winning the FA Cup in his debut campaign, Arteta's next task is to return Arsenal to the Champions League next season and the Spaniard promised more good news with captain Aubameyang getting ever closer to agreeing a new contract. "I'm really positive we are going to get it done very soon and hopefully in the next few days you will get some news," Arteta told BT Sport.

Two of Newcastle's new signings ensured they got off to a flying start after an unsettling few months off the field with a 2-0 win at West Ham. Despite a proposed Saudi-backed takeover of the club not going through, the Magpies do appear to have recruited well in the transfer market.

England international Callum Wilson got his first goal for the club early in the second half before Jeff Hendrick also marked his debut with a stunning strike to secure all three points for Steve Bruce's men. Wilfried Zaha's goal was enough to earn Crystal Palace a 1-0 win over Southampton at Selhurst Park.

Klopp Reveals Ferguson Apology

LONDON (Dispatches) - Liverpool coach Jurgen Klopp revealed he apologized to Alex Ferguson after waking the former Manchester United boss in the early hours of the morning.

Ferguson sent a congratulatory message to Klopp when Liverpool ended their 30-year wait to be crowned Premier League champions following Manchester City's defeat at Chelsea in June.

When Klopp's celebrations with his players at a Liverpool hotel had finally petered out, it was approaching 3.30am but the German was still keen to reply to Ferguson's message.

He did not anticipate the 78-year-old Scot would still have his phone on by his

bedside when he sent his response, with Ferguson later revealing Klopp had accidentally woken him up.

"The problem was that I came back late in my room that night and I couldn't sleep immediately so I went through the messages I got and one of them was from Alex Ferguson," Klopp told reporters ahead of Liverpool's opening game of the new English top-flight season against Leeds on Saturday.

"I just replied in a very polite way I think. It was about 3.30am-4am and I didn't expect him to have his phone next to his bed. I didn't want to wake him up. If that happened then sorry Alex!"

"But since then we have not been in contact. He is still the former Man United manager and I don't think he wants to talk to me too much about the success of Liverpool."

"He respects it but it's not his favorite thing to watch on television!"

Osaka Wins U.S. Open and Third Grand Slam

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Japan's Naomi Osaka came from a set down to beat Victoria Azarenka of Belarus to win the U.S. Open on Saturday and clinch her third Grand Slam title.

Osaka, the fourth seed, overcame her unseeded opponent 1-6, 6-3, 6-3 in 1hr 53min inside a near-empty Arthur Ashe Stadium at Flushing Meadows.

It brought 22-year-old Osaka's haul of tennis major trophies to three after her victories at the 2018 US Open and 2019 Australian Open. Azarenka, 31, sprinted to the first set in just 26 minutes, dominating Osaka with an 88 percent success rate on her first serve.

The Japanese was uncharacteristically sloppy, hitting a whopping 13 unforced errors.

Azarenka then went 2-0 ahead in the second set before Osaka fought back to break her opponent's serve twice and take a 4-3 lead.

The momentum had quickly swung in Osaka's favor and she broke a third time to take the match to a deciding set. Osaka enjoyed the first breakthrough of set three in game four when she broke Azarenka's serve to take a 3-1 lead.

Azarenka then blew a golden opportunity to get back into the match, wasting three break points as Osaka recovered from 0-40 to hold for a 4-1 lead.

Azarenka then saved four break points to make it 4-2 as she battled to keep the contest alive. When she broke Osaka in game seven, the set was back on serve.

But Osaka immediately broke back after Azarenka pushed a forehand wide to leave herself the opportunity of serving for the match.



Higuain Can Take Miami To Next Level

MIAMI (AFP) - Inter Miami coach Diego Alonso believes the arrival of Gonzalo Higuain will help David Beckham's new Major League Soccer franchise move to the next level.

Alonso said that the former Juventus and Real Madrid striker is undergoing physical tests and needs to finalize terms before completing his move to the United States.

Higuain is set to follow French World Cup winner and former Juve teammate Blaise Matuidi to South Florida, with Alonso confident their presence will help the younger players develop while boosting the quality of a squad which has struggled to make an impact in their debut season.

"The arrival of experience has a positive impact on the team, first because of the quality because it helps improve the level and also it impacts the young players and helps them to develop," Alonso told AFP. "It is a double benefit. We have seen it with Matuidi and if we are able to finish the signing of Gonzalo, they will both be able to benefit us in these ways."

Higuain, who will take Inter Miami's third Designated Player spot following Mexican international Rodolfo Pizarro and young Argentina forward Matias Pellegrini, was greeted upon arrival in the United States by Inter Miami co-owner Jorge Mas, who took to Twitter to announce his delight at the signing of the 32-year-old former Argentina international.

"A warm welcome to Gonzalo Higuain, a world class striker and champion," Mas wrote above a photo of the pair at the airport. With Higuain also required to quarantine for at least 10 days, the most likely date for his debut will be on September 23 when the New York Red Bulls travel to South Florida.

"Gonzalo is in South Florida," Alonso said.



PARIS (Dispatches) - Neymar has sealed an endorsement deal with Puma, the German company announced on Saturday, two weeks after the Brazilian superstar left his long-time sponsor Nike.

"Welcome to the fam @neymarjr #KingsBack" Puma tweeted alongside a photo of the Paris Saint-Germain striker, kitted out in the sportswear giant's clothes.

The world's most expensive player confirmed his new role as Puma's poster boy in an open letter posted on social media.

"I grew up watching videos of great football legends such as Pele, Cruyff, Eusebio and Maradona....who each played in Puma."

"For these reasons, from today onward, I have the honour to unite with the brand that helped the biggest legends of football become what they are," he wrote.

Neither Neymar nor Puma gave details of the length of the contract or how much it was worth.

Speculation has been flying that the 28-year-old would sign with Puma since his endorsement deal ended with Nike, the company that had sponsored him since he was a 13-year-old prodigy.

