

Director General of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Grossi Said That a Complementary Access at the Second Specified Location in Iran Will Take Place Later This Month

IRAN NEWS

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif's Planned Visit to Some European Countries This Week Was Canceled Ostensibly Due to Logistical Issues Linked To the Coronavirus Pandemic

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Tehran Rejects Baseless U.S. Report of Retaliatory Assassination Plan

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran has vehemently dismissed a U.S. report that Tehran planned to kill a US diplomat in retaliation for American assassination of General Qassem Soleimani.

The outright rebuttal by Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeid Khatibzadeh on Monday came after Politico news website claimed that Iran had sought to assassinate U.S. Ambassador to South Africa Lana Marks.

Khatibzadeh said the "biased and agenda-driven" report published in the American media outlet cited the statements of a seemingly U.S. government official in an effort to make it appear true.

"We advise American officials to stop resorting to hackneyed and outworn methods to create Iranophobic atmosphere on the international arena," he said.

The article claimed to be based on U.S. intelligence reports, allegedly seen by a U.S. government official and another official familiar with the documents, stating that Marks had likely been chosen due to her closeness to U.S. President Donald Trump.

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Uranium Enrichment Underway at Fordow Nuclear Facility

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Ali Akbar Salehi said enrichment of uranium is underway at the country's Fordow nuclear facility with 1,044 centrifuge machines.

In remarks on Sunday, Salehi described the enrichment activities as evidence to the fact that the country has taken in full the fourth step it had promised to reduce its commitments to the 2015 nuclear deal.

He made the comments in reaction to recent statements by a number of Iranian parliamentarians who claimed that the administration of President Hassan Rouhani has failed to complete the fourth step it had promised to take to reduce the country's commitments as per the JCPOA.

"The policies related to the fourth step for the reduction of JCPOA commitments have been fully implemented by the Islamic Republic of Iran and we have activated a new wing of Fordow (nuclear facility)," Salehi added, Press TV reported.

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European Embassies Warned Over Interference in Iran Internal Affairs



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Deputy Chief of Judiciary for International Affairs announced Tehran's protest against the interference of some European embassies in Iran's internal affairs.

Speaking in the meeting of Supreme council of Judiciary, Ali Baqeri said, "If the European embassies know anything about justice and fairness, they should at least observe diplomatic etiquette and not spread lies like an opposition group."

Baqeri added that external pressures will neither blunt the justice sharp blade of the Iranian judiciary nor downsize the wide umbrella of Islamic mercy.

He further said European countries cannot defend human rights as they are committed to the U.S. coercion which has imposed the cruel sanctions against Iranian nation who is being punished just for defending their rights while it does not let even the nation have access to medicines.

He blasted the Westerns who question implementation of sharia laws in Iran and protests over lack of fair trial while several people in Palestine and Yemen are killed with French, German, British and Swedish weapons without any trial.

He added that Iranian nation will never let anyone to interfere in its internal affairs, adding that Iranian nation has paid a heavy price for protecting its independence in the past four decades and today it stands bravely against interference of foreigners.

Along with the judiciary, the Iranian Foreign Ministry announced its protest to European countries against disrupting the independence of the judiciary and interference in the internal affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He noted that European countries, who have a long experience in supporting dictators and sales of weapons of mass destruction to Saddam Hussein and imposing embargo on food and medicines, cannot take the gesture of human rights defender.

Meanwhile yesterday, Ministry of Foreign Affairs has summoned the German Ambassador over meddlesome tweets of the embassy.

According to a statement by the Ministry, the director-general of the body for European affairs has strongly condemned the non-diplomatic measure of the German Embassy as interference in Iran's internal affairs.

Interfering in the laws and judiciary processes of the Islamic Republic is not acceptable and will not be tolerated, added the official, urging the embassy to acknowledge its diplomatic duties and do not act beyond them.

The envoy, for his part, said that he will reflect the Ministry's protest to Berlin.

Venezuela Defies Sanction Tripwires and Imports Iranian Oil

CARACAS (Dispatches) - An oil tanker is discharging Iranian condensate for Venezuela as both countries continue to avoid U.S. sanction tripwires.

The ship, identified as Honey, turned off its satellite signal and started unloading about 2 million barrels of South Pars condensate at Venezuela's controlled port of Jose on Saturday, according to a report and a person with knowledge of the situation. The cargo will most likely be used by the state oil company PDVSA to blend with Venezuela's tar-like oil and help to prop up oil production in the Orinoco oil belt.

OPEC founding member Venezuela, owner of the world's largest oil reserves, has been struggling to stave off a fall in production after U.S. sanctions cut access to equipment and to buyers for its oil. Output slumped to 339,000 barrels a day in July, the lowest levels seen since the 1910s, according to OPEC and government data compiled by Bloomberg.

This is the first time Venezuela has imported crude from Iran, although it's imported gasoline. It's also the country's first oil import since April 2019, when it got a parcel of Nigerian oil Agbami to mix with its heavy oil and produce flagship Merrey 16, the country's top exported blend.

Imports are used to offset Venezuela's declining production of light oil, used to make Merrey, or to act as a diluent and blend with viscous types of crude to make them lighter and more marketable.

Venezuela's information ministry, Petroleos de Venezuela SA and Iran's foreign ministry didn't immediately return calls and email seeking comment. The U.S. has been ratcheting up sanctions, leaving little room for companies to work with the regime of President Nicolas Maduro.

Last month, the U.S. seized four tankers carrying Iranian gasoline bound for Venezuela in an unprecedented move by the Trump administration. The tankers were transporting 1.116 million barrels of petroleum, confiscated after help from "foreign partners," the Justice Department said at the time.

After Russian companies Rosneft Trading SA, TNK Trading SA and Mexican Libre Abordo SA de CV cut ties with Iran, Caracas has expanded business with Iran. So far this year Tehran has supplied 1.5 million barrels of gasoline to PDVSA and food for the first Iranian supermarket in the South American nation.

Iran to Boost Range of Homegrown Missiles

TEHRAN (IFP) - The Iranian defense minister says the country seeks to increase its missile capability.

Brigadier General Amir Hatami made the comment while elaborating on the latest achievements as well as priorities of the nation's defense industry.

"Missile capability and preparedness has always been among the important priorities of the country and the Defence Ministry, and we have always focused on the strengthening and development of this domain," said the defense chief.

"We have achieved considerable and extraordinary progress in terms of missile capability in recent years," he added.

The top general underlined that significant developments have taken place in the missile domain in terms of both quality and quantity.

He added the range of some missiles will be increased three-fold compared to their previous generation.

"This capability is very important to us," he noted.

India Could Lose Basmati Rice Market In Iran to Pakistan

NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - India could lose its position as the leading exporter of basmati rice to Iran, with Tehran now beginning to procure the produce from Pakistan, ThePrint said.

For the first time in decades, basmati rice exports from India to Iran have fallen drastically in the first half of 2020-21 fiscal owing to disruption in payments, a result of the US-led sanctions. New Delhi and Tehran are now exploring a conventional barter trading system to address the rising concerns.

The matter was discussed between External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and his Iranian counterpart Javad Zarif during the former's recent visit to that country. Jaishankar had made a stopover in Tehran while on his way to Moscow last week for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization's foreign ministers' meeting.

India and Iran have been discussing the barter trading system for nearly a year now, ever since the Donald Trump administration began imposing tough economic sanctions on Tehran.

Iran has said it will buy basmati rice, sugar and medicines from India in lieu of fertilizers. New Delhi, however, is yet to firm up its decision, Iranian government sources told ThePrint.

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Oman to Be Reportedly The Next Arab State to Recognize Israel

DUBAI (Dispatches) - Oman is preparing to join the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain in recognizing Israel, according to a report in Yisrael Hayom on Monday.

According to the report, which quoted multiple senior Arab diplomats and officials, Oman is now widely expected to join the UAE and Bahrain in establishing formal diplomatic ties with Israel, including full normalization of relations and direct flights.

This is despite a senior UAE official noting that Oman is one of the only Arab states in the Persian Gulf region which maintains a positive dialogue with the Iranian government.

A second diplomat was quoted in the report as saying that Oman's relations with Iran were the only reason it has yet to openly recognize Israel.

"The reason it hasn't yet agreed to full and open relations is the reasonable possibility that this could harm its relations with Iran significantly," the official said.

The second official added that part of Bahrain's calculations in deciding whether to recognize Israel were also affected by concerns over Iran's reaction, noting that while the ruling dynasty in Bahrain is Sunni, more than 60% of the Muslim population there is Shiite.

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Nuri al-Maliki in Tehran to Meet Iranian Officials

TEHRAN (ISNA) - Former Prime Minister of Iraq and the secretary-general of the Islamic Dawa Party Nouri al-Maliki arrived in Tehran.

Iraq's former prime minister and Chairman of the Iraqi Rule of Law Coalition Nuri al-Maliki arrived in Tehran late on Sunday for talks with the Iranian officials. He is slated to sit down for talks with Iran's high-ranking officials during his stay in Tehran.

Nuri al-Maliki was Prime Minister of Iraq during 2006-2014.

Cooperation of 3 Branches Of Gov't Key to Accelerate Solving Problems

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - President Hassan Rouhani said on Sunday evening that the cooperation of the three branches of government and their coordination can help solve the country's problems and solve problems faster especially amid sanctions and the Corona outbreak.

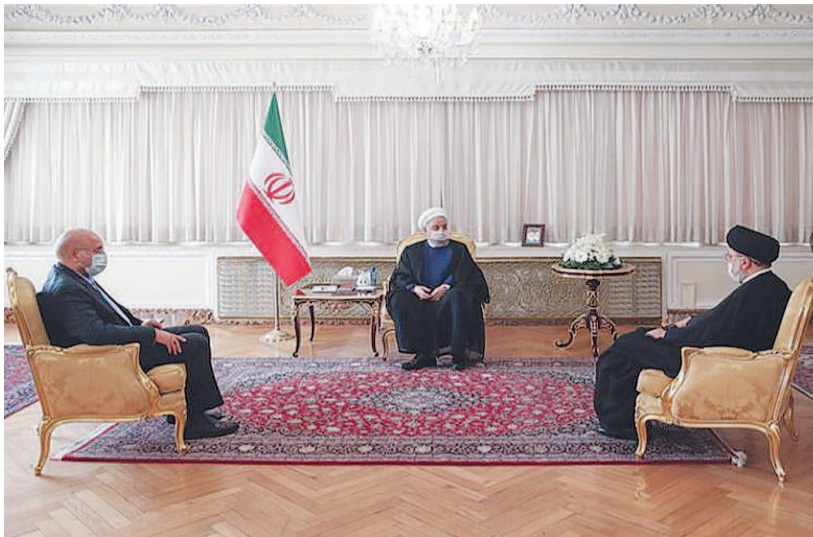
President Rouhani said in a press conference after meeting of Iran's heads of 3 branches of power: "The meetings of the heads of the three branches were held for the first time today after the formation of the 11th parliament and we discussed the country's important issues, mainly economic ones."

He described the issue of currency as one of the issues discussed at the meeting and added: "How non-oil export currency should be supplied in the country and the currency needed by the country should be provided were among the issues discussed in the meeting."

Rouhani added: "We also discussed liquidity issues and what programs should be implemented and operational sooner to direct liquidity in the country to reduce inflation."

He said: "In the field of investment and removal of barriers to production, which is also emphasized by the Leader, we had good discussions and it was decided to continue these events."

Rouhani also announced the review of regional issues and the related problems at today's meeting of the heads of 3 branches of government, adding: "The conspiracies



that the United States and Zionism have planned for the region today and how we should pursue regional issues and maintain regional stability and security and interactions were all reviewed today.

Attending the event along with President Rouhan and the chief of Iran's Judiciary Ebrahim Raisi, Iran Speaker of the Parliament Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said at the press conference called

the fields of industry, agriculture, trade and export, and all sectors as other topics that were examined in this very meeting.

"There is coordination, empathy, and good cooperation in solving economic problems. Today, the reality is that the most important concern is to solve the problems of the people in different sectors.", highlighted Majlis Speaker.

Ebrahim Raisi, the head of the judiciary as another participant of the meeting, stressed that today, the enemy seeks to disappoint the people in the social and economic spheres and disrupt our society through waging economic, psychological, and media wars, and the cooperation of three branches of government and the depletion of the entire capacity of the country is an inevitable necessity."

U.S.-Israel Efforts to Normalize Ties With Arab States, Doomed to Failure

TEHRAN (IP) - Secretary-General of World Assembly of Islamic Awakening and top advisor to the Leader of Islamic Revolution Ali-Akbar Velayati during a press conference said that U.S.-Israel hidden efforts to normalize ties with the Arab States are doomed to failure and they will retreat.

Velayati noted that recent events in the region have proven the intentions and efforts of some Arab states to normalize ties with Israel which is not new.

In response to the normalization of relations between the United Arab Emirate (UAE) and Bahrain with the Israeli regime, Velayati explained the objectives of the 13th meeting of the Assembly, noting: "The whole Islamic world opposes the wrong and very harmful action of the UAE and Bahraini leaders in recognizing the Zionist regime; hence, the World Islamic Awakening Assembly considers it as its own duty to take action in this regard."

Velayati went on to say: "At the request of sympathizers and Islamic experts, an extraordinary meeting of the Supreme Council of Islamic Awakening will be held in the presence of 50 Islamic countries on Wednesday in Tehran via videoconference."

Secretary-General of the World Assembly of Islamic Awakening also announced that an extraordinary meeting of the Assembly will be held on Wednesday.

He added, "Iraqi people also ask the US to withdraw from their territories, and we hope it happens soon."

Following the announcement of the normalization agreement between the Israeli regime and the UAE on August 13, U.S. President Donald Trump also announced the normalization of relations between Bahrain and Israel on September 11, 2020.

Iran, China Willing to Expand Bilateral Relations

TEHRAN (ISNA) - Chinese ambassador to Tehran, Chang Hua met with Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman, Saeed Khatibzadeh on Sunday, stressing on the two countries' will to expand bilateral relations.

Chang Hua in a tweet expressed his satisfaction with the meeting with Saeed Khatibzadeh and stressed that China is willing to expand its relations with Iran.

The meeting took place in Iran's Foreign Ministry building.



There Is No Military Solution to Afghan Crisis

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Foreign Ministry's Director-General for West Asia Rasoul Mousavi said on Monday that there is no military solution to Afghan crisis.

"Yes, there is no military solution to the Afghan crisis, but it must be acknowledged that the political solution is not to pursue the same goals pursued militarily," Mousavi wrote in his Twitter account on Monday.

"The political solution is forgiveness and consensus in

the National Interests," he added.

The first round of intra-Afghan negotiations (IAN) started in Doha, Qatar, on Saturday in the presence of U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Qatari officials and representatives of about 30 countries and international organizations.

Earlier on Sunday, Mousavi said in a separate message: "Today, coincides the start of #IAN during a ceremony for identifying Afghans living in Iran began."

"Hoping that #IAN will lead to full peace and stability in Afghanistan so that Afghan refugees, wherever they are in the world, can return to Afghanistan with pride," he noted.

Tehran an "Innovative" City With Innovative Ideas



TEHRAN (IFP) - A senior Iranian official says the idea of an "innovative city" can help tap into the existing potentialities to further boost innovative practices.

Sorena Sattari, the vice president for science and technology, has referred to Tehran as an innovative city, adding the innovation network in Tehran has been established in a bid to increase synergy among those contributing to the innovation and technology ecosystem of the capital.

"Enjoying extraordinary potential in the domain of innovative ideas, Tehran is a breeding ground for the creation of innovation networks," he said.

"An innovative city is a city where the municipality acts as a great business accelerator and sets the stage for maturity and commercialization of innovative ideas," he said.

"The Tehran Municipality has a large market that can be a basis for creating opportunities and added value from urban needs by startup ecosystem activists," he said.

He emphasized that urban services should be provided by the private sector and combined with innovation.

"The government should lay the groundwork for the private sector to provide," he noted.

"The municipality can have a managerial and supervisory role and receive a part of urban revenues from this activity," he said.

Tehran, Baku Hold Webinar on Communications, Navigation

TEHRAN (Tasnim) - Officials from Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan attended an online meeting on shipping industry and communications.

The Ports and Maritime Organization of Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan's Ministry of Transport, Communications and High Technologies held the meeting on Monday.

Participants in the webinar discussed various issues relating to shipping industry, communications, and advanced technologies.

Iran's Ambassador to Baku Seyed Abbas Mousavi delivered a speech to the opening of the online meeting.

In May, senior presidential officials from Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan weighed plans to promote the economic ties between the two neighbors regardless of the novel coronavirus outbreak.

The Iranian and Azeri top officials maintain that closer Tehran-Baku relationship is beneficial not only to both nations but also to the region.

U.S. Seeks to Weaken Afghanistan Sovereignty

TEHRAN (IP) - The Afghan peace process in Doha, Qatar, is U.S.-oriented and unfortunately in favor of the Taliban, said the member of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission Fada-Hussein Maleki.

Regarding the new round of Afghan peace talks in Doha, Fada-Hussein Maleki stated, "It seems that the Afghan government is empty-handed in the talks."

The Iranian parliamentarian went on to say that the U.S. intends to take advantage of the peace talks which undermines Afghanistan's sovereignty.

Highlighting that the U.S. is trying to give the Taliban a political nature, Maleki stressed that Afghan friends and all groups involved in Afghan society should know that the U.S.' hasty action in the Afghan peace is only orchestrated to win the upcoming U.S. presidential election.

On how to achieve real peace in Afghanistan, the member of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission noted that powerful countries in the region, including Iran, Russia, China, and Pakistan, should hold a summit on Afghanistan and should not remain silent.

Neighboring countries and the region must take the initiative on Afghanistan to reduce the U.S. presence in the Afghan peace process, and there is no reason for the U.S. to decide for the regional countries, he emphasized.

World Urged to Boycott Those Who Only Pretend to Favor Peace

TEHRAN (MNA) -The Commander of Iran Army's University of Command and Staff said that the world should move towards peace, and in this regard, those who are making a pretense of being adherent to peace should be boycotted.

While speaking at the opening ceremony of the 'peace and defense book fair', Brigadier General Hossein Valivand Zamani, the Commander of Iran Army's University of Command and Staff (DAFOOS) stated, "A brief look at the recent events and wars in the world demonstrates some significant points that the most wars have been fought for extravagance, for power, and for misunderstandings of peace."

Emphasizing the need for the pathology of peace barriers, he believed that joint cooperation for the affairs of refugees, prisoners, and missing persons, holding a joint peace summit, establishing international workshops on peace, defense and war should be held in war and defense universities of the countries.

He went on to say, "We are ready to cooperate with our allies and friends in the field of conducting researches on the issue of peace and sending some experts for peace education."

"We believe that the world should move towards peace, therefore we should boycott those who only pretend to be adherent to peace" he stressed.

The commander of the Dafoos also noted, "As someone who is dressed in sacred military uniform, I'd say that the peacekeepers are those who are ready to fight via their uniform."

Nations Never Surrender To Enemies' Conspiracy

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Majlis Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said on Monday that if some Arab governments are trying to force the normalization of relations with the Zionist regime under the pressure of arrogant tyrants, their nations should be paid attention because the people of these countries are not willing to tolerate the Zionist regime.

Referring to the importance of Iran and Iraq parliaments' activities in the development of the countries, Qalibaf said that members of the Parliament can create the ground for people's satisfaction by closely monitoring the implementation of the laws, and achieving this will be a factor of unity.

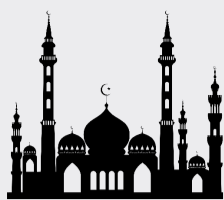
Iran's Medical Aid Delivered to Kyrgyzstan

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran's cargo containing health and medical aid to combat COVID-19 has been delivered to Kyrgyzstan.

The cargo includes medical equipment such as ventilators, thermometers and pulse oximeters, PCR tests, and kits for testing EIA, the Embassy of Iran in Kyrgyzstan said.

In order to fight the disease and following a request by Kyrgyzstan, the aid has been dispatched to that country.

The outbreak of dangerous coronavirus (COVID-19) has been affecting the world for a number of months requiring a collective campaign of the international community to thwart the threat posed to humanity by the pandemic.



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	12:59
■ Evening (Maghreb)	19:28
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	05:24
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:48

15. If any of your women are guilty of lewdness, Take the evidence of four (Reliable) witnesses from amongst you against them; and if they testify, confine them to houses until death do claim them, or Allah ordain for them some (other) way.
16. If two men among you are guilty of lewdness, punish them both. If they repent and amend, Leave them alone; for Allah is Oft-returning, Most Merciful. Surah 4, Women (15 - 16)

Most Advanced Domestically-Made Satellite Completed

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - ICT Minister Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi said on Monday that the final tests of the country's most advanced domestically-made satellite have been carried out.

Azari Jahromi made the remarks speaking during a visit to an exhibition in the Iranian capital where the country's latest indigenized information technology achievements were put on display.

He said that Pars-1 Satellite will be delivered to the Iranian Space Agency next week.

From now on the experts of the Iranian Space Agency will focus on the construction of Nahid-2 Satellite which is a telecommunication satellite, the minister said.

Pars-1 Satellite is capable of taking images in the space at night.

Meanwhile yesterday Azari Jahromi said that domestic producers must keep on with up to date technology and try to gain markets overseas.

He said that technical knowledge of production to increase productivity is available inside our country.

He made the remarks on the sidelines of an exhibition to introduce achievements of indigenous advanced equipment in the National Information Network.

The minister called software planning and creativity as two essential production elements and stressed that these elements are available in Iran.

He went on to say that decreasing the price of local productions is essential,



meaning that the cost of local products must be less than foreign ones.

Azari-Jahromi also urged companies to pay attention to after-sale services.

Dynamic technology is another factor that should not be neglected by domestic producers. To achieve this goal, research and development sections must not stop expanding their products and compete with foreign companies.

Referring to the local production's security aspect, the minister stressed that local production is used to prevent enemies from accessing information, especially the military and defense infrastructures.

The production line of an indigenous cell phone in Maragheh city was kicked off, hoping that it reaches mass production soon, the official concluded.

SPGC Ready For Sustainable Gas Supply



TEHRAN – Head of Health and Safety Executive (HSE) at South Pars Gas Company (SPGC) said that the annual overhaul program for the complex' refineries are underway based on schedule and the complex will be ready for sustainable gas supply during the cold season.

"Despite the sensitivity of the overhaul this year due to the outbreak of coronavirus, the repairs are being done according to the plan and all the refineries of the complex will be ready for production at full capacity in winter," Mohammad Masoudnia said.

Noting that the overhaul of the South Pars Gas Complex is being carried out with the implementation of health protocols, he said: "following strict health and safety protocols, the overhaul of the South Pars refineries is being carried out in safe conditions."

He stated that the overhaul of the first, second, third, fifth, seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth refineries has been completed.

"The fourth refinery has undergone several repairs in three stages and the final repairs are currently underway," Masoudnia added.

According to the plan, the overhaul of the sixth refinery will begin on September 21, and after that, this year's overhaul program will be completed, he said.

South Pars Gas Company is operating 14 gas refineries in Southern Iran that are currently processing the gas extracted from the country's giant South Pars gas field which Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf.

The mentioned gas field covers an area of 9,700 square kilometers, 3,700 square kilometers of which, called South Pars, are in Iran's territorial waters. The remaining 6,000 square kilometers, called North Dome, are situated in Qatar's territorial waters.

The field, currently divided into 24 standard phases in the Iranian side, is estimated to contain a significant amount of natural gas, accounting for about eight percent of the world's reserves, and approximately 18 billion barrels of condensate.

Iran Allows Zero-Tariff Exports for Potato

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iranian trade officials have removed exports tariffs for potato amid an oversupply in the country which is expected to intensify during the current harvesting season.

A senior official at Iran's ministry of trade (MIMT) said on Sunday that zero-rated duty on potato exports will be effective until further notice.

Mohammad Reza Kalami, who serves as head of MIMT's domestic trade department, said that a current oversupply of potato is expected to increase as harvesting season for the crop normally ends in Iran November.

Kalami said the government would consider a delay for return of proceedings gained from exports to further incentivize potato exporters.

He said removing the duty on exports had come in response to a request by potato exporters in Iran.

However, reports in recent days had suggested that



farmers and exporters where demanding the MIMT to halve its fixed base price for potato exports to \$100 per metric ton.

It also comes as agricultural authorities in key potato-growing provinces, including in Hamedan in the west and in Ardabil in northwest Iran, had warned they were running out of storage space for surplus potato production.

Iran ranked 13th in the world last year in terms of the volume of potato produced as total output reached over 5.1 million metric tons from 160,000 hectares of lands, according to figures by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The output of the staple crop is expected to grow in the upcoming years as farmers are using modern cultivation and irrigation technologies to increase production to nearly 70 tons per hectare.

Iran's potato exports are mainly aimed at neighboring countries, including to Russia, Azerbaijan and Iraq.

Copper Concentrate Output Stands at 500,000 Tons

TEHRAN (MNA) - Production of copper concentrate in Iran stood at 493,000 tons during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21).

As reported, the production of the copper concentrate in the five-month period of this year was one percent higher than that of the previous year's same time span.

Copper concentrate output in the fifth month of the present year stood at 89,000 tons, which was four percent more than the figure for the fifth month of the past year.

In its outlook plan for the mining sector in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20, 2021), Iran plans to produce 1.427 million tons of copper concentrate.

The country had planned to produce 1.198 million tons of copper concentrate in the past year, while the output reached 1.18 million tons.

Iran has seen its copper exports doubled in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19) despite a series of bitter sanctions imposed by the United States aimed at hampering the Islamic Republic's trade of lucrative metals.

A senior official at Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), Iran's largest metals and mining holding, has said that the value of exports for main copper products reached more than \$1 billion over the past year.



SPM in Premature Part of Jask Terminal Ready for Load

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – According to Pars Oil and Gas Company, the single point mooring (SPM) of the premature part of Jask Terminal project is ready for loading.

Caretaker of Jask Terminal project Mr. Vahid Maleki in an interview pointed to the accomplishment of manufacturing this single point mooring at Iranian Offshore Engineering and Construction Company in Khorramshahr, added that this SPM has been manufactured and installed based on the operational priorities and it is now ready for loading and transport.

He also added that the operation of mooring of this SPM has ended and all hydro test and circulation test of it have been conducted, noting that this operation was carried out for premature launch of Jask Terminal project.

Maleki noted that design of this SPM gives this chance to it for transfer and load of crude oil or gas condensates around 7000 cubic meters per hour equaling to one million barrels per day.

He added that according to the schedule, this SPM is to be transferred to the planned position and loaded in December.

Single point mooring (SPM) is a floating buoy/jetty anchored offshore to allow handling of liquid cargo such as petroleum products for tanker ships. SPM is mainly used in areas where a dedicated facility for loading or unloading liquid cargo is not available. Located at a distance of several kilometers from the shore-facility and connected using sub-sea and sub-oil pipelines, these single point mooring (SPM) facilities can even handle vessels of massive capacity such as VLCC.



KSC, Top Producer Co. In Khuzestan Province



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Khuzestan Steel Company was honored as the top producer company of Khuzestan Province in a ceremony with Governor General of Province Mr. Gholamreza Shariati in presence.

On the occasion of national day of industry and mine, a ceremony was held for honoring the exemplary producer units of Khuzestan Province in the past year in presence of Governor General Mr. Shariati.

Head of Industry, Mine and Trade Organization of the province Mr. Amir Hossein Nazari and some provincial officials were also present in the ceremony.

According to reports, head of human resources and social affairs department of Khuzestan Steel Company received the award on behalf of the CEO of the company.

It is noteworthy to say that Khuzestan Steel Company was chosen as the best among 25 mineral and producer companies which were eligible to compete for the award.

Setting Up "Club of Sanctioned" to Help Boost Economy

TEHRAN (MNA) – Chairman of Parliament's Economic Commission said that the launch of 'Club of Sanctioned' will help enhance economy of the country along with other sanctioned countries.

Mohammadreza Pour-Ebrahimi reiterated that setting up the special commission of 'Club of Sanctioned' in the Parliament will assist the exchange of cooperation between sanctioned countries, especially in the economic field.

"Launch of this Special Commission can help set up a structure in the world, so that countries, that have been put under sanctions, can establish cooperation and interaction with one another."

Launch of a special commission of Club of Sanctioned is definitely effective, he

said, adding, "There are ways in the world where countries can easily share some of their capabilities and potentials with each other under the agreement they conclude and formation of the commission is in this direction," he emphasized.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the chairman of Parliament Economic Commission stated, "Sharing the capacities of countries that have been sanctioned can help boost their economies and we can certainly make economic progress in this regard."

The formation of a Special Commission of the Club of Sanctioned is great capacity and sanctioned countries can exchange cooperation and interaction with each other, he added.

Hungary to Be Only EU Country to Attend Israel-UAE Accord Signing

BUDAPEST (Reuters) - Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto will be the only EU diplomatic leader to attend the signing ceremony on Tuesday in Washington for the Israel-United Arab Emirates peace deal, his spokesman said on Sunday.

“At the invitation of U.S. President Donald Trump, as the only European Union minister, Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto will also attend ... the signing ceremony in the White House on Tuesday,” Mate Paczolay told Hungarian news agency MTI.



Peru Bid to Oust President Loses Steam as Opposition Splits

LIMA (Reuters) - A bid by the opposition-led Congress to remove Peruvian President Martín Vizcarra appeared to falter on Sunday, after key political leaders rejected the ouster over fears the upheaval would plunge the country into a political crisis.

César Acuña, head of the second-largest party in Congress and a possible candidate in 2021 presidential elections, said an ouster would “aggravate” the country’s current situation, already fragile from the impact of the coronavirus crisis.



Turkish Vessel Leaves Contested Waters in Eastern Med



ISTANBUL (AFP) - A Turkish research ship at the center of a row with Greece over gas exploration has left disputed waters in the eastern Mediterranean and returned to the coast in a move hailed as a “positive first step” by the Greek prime minister.

The Oruc Reis seismic survey vessel backed by Turkish navy frigates has been deployed to waters near the Greek island of Kastellorizo since August 10 despite repeated protests from Athens and the European Union.

Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar confirmed that the ship has returned to the Turkish coast while ship-tracking websites marinetrac.com and vesselfinder.com showed it in waters near the port of Antalya.

“There will be planned movements backwards and forwards,” Akar told state news agency Anadolu in Antalya.

He said the movement away from the contested waters, which are claimed by both countries, did not mean Turkey “would be giving up on our rights there”.

But the decision not to extend the ship’s mission was viewed as “a step towards giving diplomacy a chance,” the pro-government Yeni Safak newspaper said on Sunday, linking it to attempts to kickstart talks between Greece and Turkey, who are both NATO partners.

“This is a positive first step,” Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis told reporters at a press conference in the Greek city Thessaloniki on Sunday. “I hope there will be more of them.”

France, already at odds with Turkey over Libya and Syria, has sent in its own naval ships into the region to support Greece, which announced major new arms purchases on Saturday, including French-made Rafale fighter jets.

Akar slammed French President Emmanuel Macron, accusing him of “provoking and encouraging” Greece.

The decision to send the Oruc Reis ship to map out potential gas and oil drilling spots is seen as part of Turkey’s so-called “Blue Homeland” strategy of staking out claims to energy resources in the eastern Mediterranean.

The lack of agreed maritime borders between Turkey and Greece, or Turkey and Cyprus, have led to tensions since the discovery of major hydrocarbon reserves in the region in the past decade.

Efforts to find a diplomatic solution to the latest standoff have so far proved fruitless.

NATO said earlier this month that officials from both sides had agreed to take part in technical talks to avoid accidents between their navies.

Athens denied this was the case, but the Turkish defence ministry said on Thursday that the first round of talks between Greek and Turkish military delegations took place at NATO’s headquarters in Brussels.

While Turkey repeatedly said it was ready for dialogue without preconditions, Greece said there could only be talks once Ankara stopped making “threats”.

Bahrain Opposition Rejects Israel Normalization

MANAMA (Dispatches) - Bahraini opposition groups have rejected a decision by the Persian Gulf state to normalize relations with Israel with a leading Shia Muslim leader calling on the people of the region to resist.

Muslim scholar Ayatollah Sheikh Isa Qassim, who lives in Iran, said on Sunday he was against normalization between Arab countries and Israel, in a statement published by dissolved Bahraini opposition party al-Wefaq, a group close to Qassim.

The accords struck between Israel and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) last month, and between Israel and Bahrain on Friday, go against the will of the people, he said.

“There is a great divergence between the rulers and the ruled in thought, mind, aims and interests. Governments are experiencing a psychological defeat and want to impose it on the people, and the people have to resist this defeat,” Qassim said.

A group of Bahraini political and civil society associations, including the Bahrain Bar Association, on Sunday voiced their opposition to the deal in a joint statement.

“What results from normalisation will not enjoy popular backing, in line with what generations of Bahrainis have been brought up on in terms of adherence to the Palestinian cause,” the statement said.

The head of Bahrain’s highest court ordered judiciary employees not to criticize government policy or express opinions harming national unity, al-Bilad newspaper reported on Sunday.

Bahrain’s foreign minister said Palestinian rights remained a priority for the kingdom.

Bahrainis have previously criticized their government’s engagements with Israel, including last June’s conference in Manama to launch a U.S.-led \$50bn economic formula for Israeli-Palestinian peace.

Parliament last April joined social media calls to stop Israeli business and government officials attending an international entrepreneurship conference. The delegation did not attend.

Bahrain has had a Jewish population for decades, although emigration means it is small today.



Blair, Major Chide UK Plan to Breach Int’l Law

LONDON (Reuters) - Former prime ministers Tony Blair and John Major said on Sunday Britain must drop a “shocking” plan to pass legislation that breaks its divorce treaty with the European Union, in a breach of international law.

The British government said explicitly last week that it plans to break international law by breaching parts of the Withdrawal Agreement treaty that it signed in January, when it formally left the EU.

“What is being proposed now is shocking,” Major and Blair, who were adversaries in the 1990s as Conservative and Labour leaders, wrote in a joint letter published by the Sunday Times newspaper.

“How can it be compatible with the codes of conduct that bind ministers, law officers and civil servants deliberately to break treaty obligations?”

Theresa May, the predecessor of current Prime Minister Boris Johnson, has also questioned whether international partners would be able to trust Britain in future. Johnson’s Internal Market Bill is aimed at ensuring Britain’s four constituent nations can trade freely with one another after leaving the EU, but the government says that requires overriding part of the withdrawal treaty it signed with Brussels.

British ministers say the bill is a “safety net” in the event there is no trade deal reached with the bloc, but top EU officials say it undermines both the withdrawal treaty and trust in future talks.

EU chief negotiator Michel Barnier said on Sunday that the Withdrawal Agreement on Northern Ireland “is not a threat to the integrity of the UK”, and had been agreed by the two sides to protect peace on the island of Ireland.

“We could not have been clearer about the consequences of Brexit,” Barnier said on Twitter.

His British counterpart David Frost responded by saying London had to reserve powers in the new bill in order to keep the peace in Ireland.

Keir Starmer, leader of the opposition Labour Party, described the legislation as wrong on Sunday.

At Least 100,000 Belarus Protesters Flood Streets

MOSCOW (Reuters) - At least 100,000 Belarusian protesters took to the streets of Minsk on Sunday in one of the biggest demonstrations yet against President Alexander Lukashenko after he claimed a landslide victory in an election his opponents say was rigged.

As public anger continued to build against Lukashenko, who has ruled the former Soviet nation for 26 years, Moscow offered him support by saying it would send paratroopers to Belarus for “Slavic Brotherhood” joint drills.

A wave of protests has swept Belarus since the Aug. 9 presidential election, which demonstrators say was actually won by Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya. Key opposition figures have since either been jailed or fled the country, with Tsikhanouskaya now in Lithuania.

Lukashenko denies the election was rigged and has said foreign powers are behind the protests. A vast column of protesters marched through the capital Minsk towards a government district on Sunday, chanting “long live Belarus” and “you’re a rat,” a taunt that has frequently been used against Lukashenko during demonstrations.

They came to a halt and chanted “fascists” as hundreds of riot police with shields blocked off the road. Meanwhile in the city of Brest, police used water cannons on protesters, according to the Nexta Live channel.

Police said they had detained about 250 people in Minsk.

The atmosphere was tense, with a large police presence in parts of the capital, and some central areas sealed off with barbed wire, including Oktyabrskaya Square and Independence Square - common focus points of anti-government rallies. The Interfax Russian news agency reported that shots had been fired into the air to warn off protesters in an area of Minsk where the Belarusian leadership lives.

An interior ministry official denied that any shots were fired in the air.

The unrest comes as Lukashenko, in power since 1994, prepares to travel to Russia on Monday for talks with President Vladimir Putin. Moscow, a neighbour and traditional ally, has stepped up support, offering to potentially restructure Belarusian debt, and providing banking liquidity. It has also said Russian riot police could be made available if needed.

On Sunday, Russia’s defence ministry said it would send paratroopers from its elite Pskov division to Belarus for the joint drills starting on Monday and running till Sept. 25, the TASS state news agency reported. On the streets of Minsk, some critics of Lukashenko expressed hope that the sheer size of Sunday’s protests would undermine the Belarusian leader and make it difficult for Putin to back him openly.



Kremlin Set for Election Wins

MOSCOW (Reuters) - The ruling United Russia party looked set for an array of local election wins on Sunday, but was also on course for some setbacks as stricken Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny’s supporters made rare gains in city politics in Siberia.

The local elections were closely watched for signs of protest voting against the ruling party that backs President Vladimir Putin amid frustrations over years of falling wages and the government’s handling of the pandemic.

The votes also followed the suspected poisoning by a rare nerve agent of opposition politician Navalny who had promoted a tactical voting strategy to hurt United Russia and fielded dozens of candidates for city councils in Siberia.

Official early results showed pro-Kremlin politicians backed by Putin coasting to landslide wins to serve as the governors of the regions of Komi, Tatarstan, Kamchatka and more than a dozen others. Votes were still being counted.

But Navalny’s supporters scored rare victories in city council votes in Novosibirsk, Russia’s third city by population, and the student town of Tomsk where United Russia, which dominates regional power, appeared to have lost its council majority. “People are sick of the authorities. You can’t sit on the throne for 20 years, grab, steal endlessly, do all of this and go unpunished,” said Ksenia Fadeyeva, who won a council seat in Tomsk.

Navalny supporter Andrei Fateev, 32, also won a seat in Tomsk, while others such as Sergei Boyko, another ally of Navalny, looked set to win council seats in Novosibirsk.

“This completely destroys the whole myth about the 2% of liberals and that their ‘support is only among hipsters inside the Garden ring road (in Moscow),” said Leonid Volkov, a close ally of Navalny. With Navalny sidelined by the suspected poisoning, his allies pressed ahead with his “smart voting” strategy, naming more than a thousand politicians they thought were well placed to beat ruling party candidates and urging Russians to vote for them.

In Tomsk, Fateev said United Russia appeared to have won only 12 out of 37 seats on the council after many candidates backed by the smart voting strategy had gone on to win. Tatiana Doroshenko, a local election official, said she could not remember United Russia ever performing so badly in her 15 years as chairwoman of a district election commission in Tomsk.





Farmanieh (\$2300)
200sq.m, 3bdrs
S/pool, S, J
L.balcony
marble fl
Fully Furn

Shanon
(adviser)

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

Parsian

Sa`adat abad (\$1800)
180sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p, S, J, pkg, & F.F

Jordan (\$1000) 2bdrs, balcony, pkg, F.F

Zaferanieh Apt (\$1500)
2bdrs, roof garden, S/p, F.F

Elahieh Apt (\$2000) F.F
200sq.m, 3bdrs
S/p, S, J, pkg

Niavaraneh Villa (\$4000)
1200sq.m, 6bdrs
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South Korean Shares Log 2nd Highest Gains Among G-20 Peers

SEOUL (Yonhap) -- South Korea's key stock index has posted the second-highest profit rate among its Group of 20 peers since this year's bottom, helped by robust buying by individuals, the bourse operator said Sunday. The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index (KOSPI) closed at 2,396.69 points Friday, soaring 64.42 percent from 1,439.43 on March 19. All G-20 countries saw their main stock indices plunge to the year's lowest in mid-March, when investors' fear peaked over the new coronavirus pandemic. The gain marks the second-highest rate only after Argentina's 107.54 percent, the Korea Exchange (KRX) said.



Lagarde Shifts Burden to Governments to Aid Recovery

FRANKFURT (Reuters) - Euro zone governments must keep spending heavily to aid the bloc's recovery from its historic pandemic-induced recession, complementing already super-easy monetary policy, European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde said on Sunday.

With debt levels blowing past 100% of GDP this year, concerns are rising that politicians will struggle to push through more support and some subsidies, raising the risk that employment and income schemes could abruptly end.

"Confidence in the private sector rests to a very large extent on confidence in fiscal policies," Lagarde said in a speech. "Continued expansionary fiscal policies are vital to avoid excessive job shedding and support household incomes until the economic recovery is more robust." Employment subsidy schemes have already been extended in several countries but some are advocating longer, one- or two-year extensions to bolster confidence while the bloc recovers from recession that could slash 8% from output this year.

"Keeping job support schemes in place is critical to avoid a sharp increase in unemployment later in the year," she added in a speech to the Annual Meeting of the Council of Governors of the Arab Central Banks and Monetary Authorities.

Lagarde also urged a final deal on the European Union's 750 billion euro recovery fund, which is still under negotiation and subject to political bickering. For its part, the ECB is ready to adjust all of its instruments as needed since there is no place for complacency, Lagarde said, largely repeating the bank's standing message.

The ECB has eased policy several times this year and now estimates that its measures will add 1.3 percentage points to growth and 0.8 percentage point to inflation through 2022.

Lagarde also repeated her comments from Thursday that the ECB would "carefully" assess incoming data, including the euro's strengthening, which risked dampening both growth and inflation.

Greece to Boost Arms With 18 New French Rafale Jets, Frigates

ATHENS (Dispatches) - Greece's prime minister outlined plans to upgrade the country's defense capabilities, including purchasing new fighter planes, frigates, helicopters and weapons systems amid heightened tensions with Turkey over rights to resources in the eastern Mediterranean.

In an annual state of the economy speech, Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said Greece would obtain 18 new French-made Rafale fighter planes to replace its aging Mirage 2000 fighters, buy four navy helicopters and four new frigates and was refurbishing another four frigates.

The armed forces will obtain new anti-tank weapons, new torpedoes and new guided missiles, as well as hire 15,000 more people over the next five years, he said. France welcomed the Rafale acquisition, the first by a European country.

"Armed Forces Minister Florence Parly welcomes the choice announced today by Prime Minister Mitsotakis to acquire 18 Rafale aircraft," a statement by France's Armed Forces ministry said.

"This choice...strengthens the link between the Greek and French armed forces, and will allow them to intensify their operational and strategic cooperation," the statement said, adding that a contract will be signed "in the coming months."

Nominally NATO allies, Greece and Turkey have deployed naval and air force units to assert the countries' competing claims over energy rights in the eastern Mediterranean. Turkish survey vessels and drill ships continue to prospect for gas in waters where Greece and the European island nation of Cyprus claim exclusive economic rights.

The increasing tension at sea has led to concerns that the situation could spiral into armed conflict.

"We are a peaceful country, ready to cooperate with all... including with Turkey," Mitsotakis said, speaking from the northern city of Thessaloniki. If Turkey disagrees on the delineation of maritime boundaries in the eastern Aegean, he said, then a solution could be found at the International Court.

Turkey accuses Greece of trying to grab an unfair share of maritime resources and Cyprus of disregarding the rights of Turkish Cypriots on the ethnically divided island.

Greece and Turkey have conducted rival naval exercises amid their standoff. On Friday, Turkey announced live-fire exercises starting Saturday and running through Monday between its southern coast and northern Cyprus.

High-Level Taiwan-U.S. Economic Talks Set to Begin Sept. 18

TAIPEI (Taiwan News) — High-level economic talks between Taiwan and the U.S. are reportedly taking place next Friday (Sept. 18), with discussions expected to touch upon restructuring supply chains and economic cooperation in the region.

Rumors about a visit to Taipei by the U.S.

Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment Keith Krach have been circulating since he was appointed to host the U.S.-Taiwan Economic and Commercial Dialogue at the end of August. Taiwanese authorities have so far declined to confirm the news, saying only that arrangements for the talks are still being negotiated.

Nevertheless, it was reported on Sunday (Sept. 13) that Krach will visit Taiwan and host economic talks scheduled for Friday. The U.S. delegation will arrive in Taiwan on Thursday on a chartered flight and return to the U.S. after attending the memorial ceremony of former Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui on Saturday, the Liberty Times reported.

Krach's Taiwan visit will not be finalized until the U.S. administration makes a formal announcement, the report cited a source familiar with the matter as saying. Should the visit be confirmed, Krach will be the second high-level U.S. Cabinet official to visit Taiwan this year, following Secretary of Health and Human Resources Alex Azar's trip in August.

The bilateral talks will be focused on restructuring supply chains in the post-pandemic era, as well as protection of trade secrets, screening of Chinese and foreign investment, and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region, the report said. The Taiwanese negotiation team will be headed by Vice Premier Shen Jong-chin, who will likely be joined by the Cabinet's main trade negotiator John Deng and Economic Minister Wang Mei-hua.

Canada Looks Set For a Fight Over Compensation for Huawei Gear

OTTAWA (Reuters) - Canada is signaling it might not compensate major telecommunications providers if the federal government bans equipment made by China's Huawei from 5G networks, setting up a potential fight over a bill that could hit C\$1 billion (\$93.5 million pounds).

Canada, under pressure from the United States to ban Huawei Technologies Co Ltd gear on security grounds, is studying whether to allow the firm into the country's next-generation 5G networks.

If Ottawa does announce a formal ban, the affected companies have made clear they want compensation for tearing out their existing Huawei gear, said two sources close to the matter.

But the Liberal government, already pressing wireless providers to cut what it says are excessively high bills, seems less convinced.

"I'm not sure there is a solid legal case that we would have to compensate for making a proper national security decision," said a government source who requested anonymity given the sensitivity of the situation.

Federal politicians, said the source, also had to worry about "the public perception of handing over a billion dollars or more to very large companies."

Ottawa has spent almost two years studying whether to allow Huawei into 5G networks and in June, with no sign of a decision coming any time soon, impatient Canadian providers took matters into their own hands.

Bell Canada and Corp T.TO said they would partner with Ericsson and Nokia Oyj, even though they use Huawei in their 4G networks.

Technical experts say it is hard to marry one company's 5G equipment with 4G gear from another provider. This effectively means the decision to go with Ericsson would eventually force Telus and Bell to remove the Chinese firm's 4G equipment.

Bell and Telus do not have to act immediately, since a crucial auction of spectrum needed for 5G networks will not happen until June 2021.

In a February 2019 filing, Telus said a ban without compensation could increase the cost of its 5G network deployment and make services more expensive for consumers.

Telus did not respond to a query as to whether it still felt the same way about compensation. Bell did not respond to a request for comment.

Scotiabank analysts said on June 2 it would cost Bell a total of between C\$300 million and \$350 million over three to five years to strip out Huawei gear. At the same time, BMO estimated Telus had roughly double the exposure than that of Bell.

Pakistan Delays Plan to Hedge Oil Prices



ISLAMABAD (Dispatches) - Pakistan has delayed its plan to hedge petroleum prices as experts have advised the government to stay away from materialising its hedging strategy while prices of petroleum products remain volatile.

In a cabinet meeting held in March this year, Pakistan had decided to come up with an oil hedging plan in the wake of a tug of war between Saudi Arabia and Russia over global oil production, coupled with the rapid spread of the coronavirus, which sent crude prices crashing to a 17-year low in the global market.

Sources told The Express Tribune that cabinet members had recalled the decision of the cabinet in July this year to hedge petroleum prices. It was enquired as to why the price was not hedged when the POL prices had hit rock bottom. To this, Adviser to Prime Minister on Finance Hafeez Shaikh informed that a series of discussions with major players in the hedging business had been held. The experts had advised against hedging while prices remained volatile as the cost would be exuberant.

Now that the market had stabilised, price of around 15% of imported POL would be hedged, Shaikh had informed. But the plan has not materialised so far even after a couple of months. The response of the Petroleum Division was awaited till the filing of the story.

Due to volatility of the petroleum prices in international market, traders had been active to strike deals with different countries. There had been criticism when a plan was submitted to different forums for a decision and higher rates were suggested and no final decision could be taken.

In a risky move, the Petroleum Division had sought purchase of oil at \$8-15 per barrel higher than the current low price for hedging. However, these rates were not approved.

Suga Says No Limit to Bonds Government Can Issue

TOKYO (Reuters) - Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga, who is set to become prime minister this week, said on Sunday there was no limit to the amount of bonds the government can issue to support an economy hit by the coronavirus pandemic.

He also indicated he could look to a third extra budget to fight the downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic if needed, adding the government had enough resources to tap at present.

"Only when we have economic growth can we push through fiscal reform. What's most important is to create jobs and protect businesses," Suga said on a television programme.



"I don't think so," he said, when asked if there was a limit to bond issuance. "What's important now is to improve current (economic) conditions," he added.

Suga made the remarks on a program where he appeared alongside his two rivals in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's (LDP) leadership election, to be held today.

Speculation is mounting that Suga, who has seen his popularity rise in opinion polls since announcing his bid for the top job, may call a general election as early as next month to improve his chances of winning a full three-year term as LDP leader in a party election that must be held in September 2021.

Finance Minister Taro Aso told supporters in eastern Japan on Sunday that Suga's cabinet may be criticised for not having a popular mandate and that in that case, "imminent" snap elections could be possible, the Nikkei daily said.

COVID-19 Kills 156 More Iranians Over Past 24 Hours

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Health Ministry spokeswoman Sima Sadat Lari said on Monday that some 156 more Iranians have died from coronavirus disease (COVID-19) over the past 24 hours. The health ministry spokeswoman said that with the 156 new deaths the country’s total COVID-19 death toll mounted to 23,313. Some 2,619 new cases of infection with the COVID-19 were found over the past 24 hours, some 1,382 of whom have been hospitalized, Sadat Lari said.



EU’s Neighborhood “Engulfed in Flames”

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) - The EU’s neighbourhood is “in flames” with crises from Belarus to the eastern Mediterranean that demand an urgent united response from member states, the bloc’s foreign policy chief has warned.

Josep Borrell also said the Balkans were a “powder keg” that the EU had to help defuse to improve regional security and meet its ambition to be a credible world foreign policy force.

“In the last 10 months, our neighbourhood has become engulfed in flames, from Libya to Belarus,” Mr Borrell said in an interview with the Financial Times. “Everything has got much worse than I could have expected.”

His comments come as EU countries spar over efforts to impose sanctions over the post-election crackdown in Belarus by Alexander Lukashenko and Turkey’s attempts to seize potentially gas-rich eastern Mediterranean waters. EU leaders will also hold a video summit with China’s President Xi Jinping on Monday that is likely to underscore the tension in the bloc’s push to win economic concessions from Beijing while condemning its clampdown in Hong Kong and Xinjiang.

Mr Borrell said EU foreign ministers on September 21 were expected to agree on sanctions on Belarusian officials for the rigging of last month’s presidential election and the ensuing crackdown on political opponents. Mr Lukashenko’s inclusion in the draft list of about 40 names was something “to be debated”, he added. The bloc had 170 people including Mr Lukashenko on a Belarus sanction list until 2016.

Cyprus is holding the list up to secure a quid pro quo of sanctions on Turkey, some EU diplomats say. A Cypriot official denied the country was blocking the move, saying it lacked the bureaucratic capacity to study the recommendations quickly.

Mr Borrell said EU action on Turkey would be discussed by leaders at a Brussels summit starting on September 24 following the deployment of warships by Turkey and France in the eastern Mediterranean.

“The tensions in the eastern Mediterranean between Greece, Turkey and Cyprus have been increasing exponentially, and there is a strong risk of a confrontation that goes further than just words,” said Mr Borrell, a 73-year-old former Spanish foreign minister who began his five-year EU posting in December.

The Socialist party veteran said the EU faced a big test in its resolution of disputes in the Balkans, including the wrangle between Serbia and its breakaway former province of Kosovo.

“If we don’t stabilise the Balkans, it’s going to be very difficult to be considered a geopolitical power. Because nobody else will do it — only the Europeans.”

On Russia, Mr Borrell suggested the EU should respond with sanctions over the novichok nerve agent poisoning of Russian opposition activist Alexei Navalny if there was “clear evidence” that specific officials were involved.

The EU chief said the case would then be “equivalent” to the poisoning of the former Russian spy Sergei Skripal in the UK in 2018. That led to EU sanctions against four military intelligence officials, including the agency’s head and deputy head.

Mr Borrell said that it was “up to the Germans” — who identified the use of novichok — to decide whether to retaliate over the Navalny case by stopping the Nord Stream 2 project to pipe Russian gas to the country. “Nord Stream 2 is not a European project. I have to say that the commission has never shown a strong enthusiasm for Nord Stream 2,” he said.



Mr Borrell bemoaned a “lack of urgency” in EU foreign policymaking and was candid about the limitations of his role, not least the need for unanimous decision-making by member states. He likened EU foreign policymaking to the early days of monetary union before the euro, when a virtual common currency coexisted alongside national currencies.

It was “still a work in progress, and it will still be a work in progress for a long time because we don’t share the same view of the world”, he said.

Mr Borrell said there was a “growing awareness” in Europe about the need for a “more realistic approach to China”, especially after its crackdown in Hong Kong.

“The relationship with China is more difficult today than after the decision they took in Hong Kong,” he said. “It has consequences. And our relations will be difficult until we reach a level playing field and the principle of reciprocity [on market access].”

Ms Merkel had intended to use Germany’s six-month EU presidency to broker an agreement on investment between EU and China at a summit in Leipzig this month after years of foot-dragging by Beijing, but the meeting was postponed indefinitely. Mr Borrell said the Chinese had been “very reluctant to advance” but he had recently detected a “more pro-agreement” mood in Beijing.

Too much attention had been devoted to Brussels’ categorisation of China as a “systemic rival”, Mr Borrell lamented: “It doesn’t mean that you have to be in a permanent and systemic rivalry,” insisting on the need for co-operation on climate change and the pandemic. International relations were no longer linear, but had “multiple faces”. This applied to Europe’s relationship with the US too, he added.

Even if Joe Biden won the presidential election, Washington’s policy towards China was set on a “more confrontational approach”, Mr Borrell said. Europe had to chart its own way “to avoid being squeezed” between the two superpowers.

“From the point of view of economic interest, we are not always on the same side,” he said. “And I think that we have clearly to defend our interest in front of the two big powers that will mark the 21st century through their confrontation.”

Macron Presses Lebanese Politicians as Cabinet Deadline Looms



PARIS/BEIRUT (Reuters) - French President Emmanuel Macron has been pressing Lebanese politicians to deliver on promises to form a new government this week and haul the country out of its worst crisis since the 1975-1990 civil war, his office said on Sunday.

Lebanon’s leaders promised Macron on Sept. 1 during his visit that they would form a cabinet of technocrats without party loyalties in about two weeks to end a crippling economic crisis made worse by a huge blast in Beirut on Aug. 4.

An official source said Prime Minister-designate Mustapha Adib was expected to present his plan for a cabinet to President Michel Aoun, seeking to accelerate a process that typically takes months of haggling over ministries.

“The (French) president continues his calls with the various political players in Lebanon,” the French presidential office said, without giving details about any discussions.

Macron held phone talks on Saturday with Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, a top Shi’ite politician, in an effort to remove an obstacle over the finance ministry post, which is traditionally controlled by Shi’ites, a political ally of Berri said.

Berri, head of the Amal Movement, an ally of the politically powerful and heavily armed Shi’ite group Hezbollah, said in a statement on Sunday his group opposed the manner the cabinet was being formed and did not want to join. But he said he would cooperate to stabilise the nation.

Berri cited a concern about a lack of consultation and what he called resorting to “foreign leverage” in forming the cabinet. The same phrase was used in a speech on Sunday by another Hezbollah ally, Christian politician Gebran Bassil.

Would-Be Merkel Successor Laschet Looks for Local Election Boost

BERLIN (Reuters) - German conservative Armin Laschet hoped for a local election boost on Sunday in his quest to succeed Chancellor Angela Merkel as a fresh poll showed him trailing other candidates ahead of a December party leadership show-down.

Laschet, 59, who is positioning himself as the continuity candidate to succeed Merkel, needs a strong performance by his Christian Democrats (CDU) in Sunday’s North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) local elections after he endured a difficult summer.

Polls showed voters have rated his management of the coronavirus pandemic in Germany’s most populous state poorly.

“In the CDU, we hope to be the strongest political

force in North Rhine-Westphalia again, and to increase our margin over competitors,” Laschet, a centrist, said after voting.

More than 14 million people are entitled to vote in Sunday’s elections, in which NRW voters are choosing local town councils. The strength of different parties varies from city to city, but polls show the CDU is in the lead overall.

The elections come as the CDU looks ahead to a congress in December when it must choose a new leader. The new CDU chairman will be in pole position to be the party’s chancellor candidate, though in theory the leader of its Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union (CSU), could run as the candidate for their alliance, dubbed “the Union”.

Uranium Enrichment...

FROM PAGE 1

“Based on the policies adopted to reduce JCPOA commitments, 1,044 centrifuges are doing enrichment (work) at Fordow. Therefore, as the executor of these policies, we have totally fulfilled our duty,” the Iranian nuclear chief said.

Under the nuclear deal, Iran had undertaken that these 1,044 centrifuge machines would not enrich uranium, but in line with the policies to reduce JCPOA commitments, the country is now enriching uranium to the amount it requires, and it will stockpile the enriched materials, Salehi noted.

He emphasized that Iran has been faced with a political challenge posed by the global arrogance since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979, which gradually turned to a nuclear challenge, saying, “We finally succeeded in isolating the U.S. in this challenge and this is a very valuable achievement for the Islamic Republic of Iran.”

Oman...

FROM PAGE 1

But, the official continued, “After the United Arab Emirates reached a deal with Israel with the support of the Saudis, in Manama [the Bahraini capital] they understood that they can rely on the support of Riyadh ... and they joined on to the historic peace agreement, which will benefit all sides. Therefore, it is clear that additional Arab states will join soon.”

On the other hand, other Arab diplomats agree that Saudi Arabia itself will not move to recognize Israel formally or to establish full relations, due to its obligations to the Palestinian Authority. On Sunday, Oman welcomed Bahrain’s decision to normalize relations with Israel.

“Oman hopes this new strategic path taken by some Arab countries will contribute to bringing about a peace based on an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands and on establishing an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as capital,” the government statement said. In 2018, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu visited Oman and discussed peace initiatives in the Middle East with then-Omani leader Sultan Qaboos.

In a turbulent region, Oman has maintained its neutrality. It has kept friendly relations with a range of regional actors, including arch-foes the United States and Iran.

Tehran Rejects...

FROM PAGE 1

Khatibzadeh said, “The Islamic Republic of Iran, as a responsible member of the international community, has demonstrated its continued adherence to the principles and customs of international diplomacy.”

“In contrast, it is the United States and the current regime in the White House that, especially in recent years, has shown its disregard for basic diplomatic principles and become a pariah regime in the international arena with numerous actions outside the internationally-accepted methods and norms, including the design and execution of dozens of assassination plans and military and intelligence interventions, withdrawal from numerous international agreements, violation of territorial integrity and the cowardly assassination of General Qassem Soleimani, the glorious commander of the fight against terrorism.”

Khatibzadeh said, “The Islamic Republic of Iran, as it has repeatedly stated, will continue to pursue international legal action in connection with the criminal and cowardly assassination of General Soleimani at all levels, and will neither forgive nor forget this terrorist act.”

The spokesman said baseless allegations such as the one published in the Politico are “part of the Trump administration’s counter-intelligence campaign against Iran.”

“The U.S. regime’s resort to anti-Iranian accusations and lies in the run-up to the U.S. presidential election, and at the same time its pressure to abuse UN Security Council mechanisms to increase pressure on the Iranian people, was predictable.

“Nevertheless, such moves and news fabrications, probably to continue in the future, will certainly remain futile, adding to Washington’s long list of ongoing failures against the Islamic Republic of Iran,” he added.

India...

FROM PAGE 1

Iran is now importing basmati rice from Pakistan while Indian consignments worth Rs 1,500 crore are stuck owing to payment issues, the sources said, adding that Tehran has now asked New Delhi to quickly move on this decision by utilizing the banking channels of UCO Bank and IDBI Bank that continue to maintain a presence there.

Due to the U.S. sanctions on Iran, it has become difficult for Indian banks to operate the payment mechanism, while exporters are finding it increasingly difficult to sell rice in that market. Some of the exporters, who used to ship their basmati rice consignments through Dubai, have now come under the scanner of investigating agencies.

The Indian government believes a traditional barter trading system with Iran will be difficult since India has stopped buying crude oil from that country. This is because India exports basmati rice worth \$1 billion to that market, and hence buying fertilisers worth that amount will not be cost-effective, according to Indian government sources. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is exploring the options of extending a limited line of credit to Iran via the EXIM Bank so that the payments issue for Indian exports can be sorted out until the sanctions are lifted.

“Exporters are concerned that rice exports can also come under sanctions and payments have become a huge issue,” said Ajay Sahai, DG and CEO, Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO). “Basmati rice exports to Iran have taken a hit this year. Getting the market back will be difficult if we lose it to other countries, if and when the sanctions are lifted.”

Owing to the U.S.’ unilateral sanctions, India brought down its crude imports from Iran to zero in May last year. In 2019, India was the top exporter of basmati rice to that country, shipping nearly 1.6 million tonnes.

While India has made it clear to Iran that it will not be able to make much progress in the next phase of the Chabahar Port project as long as the US sanctions are there, Tehran has asked New Delhi to invest in some of the affiliated projects such as free trade zones, economic enclaves and other logistical infrastructure.

Even though the Chabahar port project was spared from American sanctions, Indian players have shied away from participating in the next phase, which entails constructing a rail link from the port to Zahedan in the Sistan-Baluchistan province and a 218-km road from Zaranj to Delaram.

“India has to see these projects from the perspective of its own national interest and not through the prism of other countries,” said a top Iranian official, who refused to be named. “We are telling India to at least invest in the ancillary projects that will feed into the larger Chabahar project. Many countries are waiting to invest in these projects but we want India to come in but it should not be too late.”

According to the official, India should “utilise this opportunity to be a major partner in the lucrative project” even as China is planning investments of billions of dollars under the new and updated Iran-China strategic partnership deal. “Wish India also did the same... To be close to China does not mean we are against India,” the official said.

The China-Iran agreement is expected to overshadow even the multi-billion dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Under this deal, China is also expected to build a major port development project on the Strait of Hormuz.

Tig Downs Bouchard In Istanbul Final

ISTANBUL (Reuters) - Patricia Maria Tig rallied from a set down to beat Canada's Eugenie Bouchard 2-6 6-1 7-6(4) in the final of the TEB BNP Paribas Tennis Championship Istanbul on Sunday to claim her maiden WTA crown.

Romanian Tig, ranked 88 in the world, dropped the first set tamely but raced through the next to level the contest at one set apiece as her opponent let the advantage slip with a number of errors amid a nervy display.

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Kecmanovic Claims First ATP Title

VIENNA (Reuters) - Serbia's Miomir Kecmanovic captured his maiden ATP title by beating German Yannick Hanfmann 6-4 6-4 in the Generali Open final in Kitzbuehel, Austria on Sunday.

The 21-year-old, ranked 47th in the world, converted three out of four break points to win his first Tour trophy in his second final, having finished runner-up to Lorenzo Sonego in Antalya last year.

Hamilton Takes 90th Win in Crazy Tuscan GP

TUSCAN (Reuters) - Lewis Hamilton celebrated his 90th Formula One win, one short of Ferrari great Michael Schumacher's all-time record, after a crazy Tuscan Grand Prix on Sunday that twice had to be stopped and re-started.

The six-times world champion's Finnish team mate Valtteri Bottas completed the Mercedes one-two in a crash-strewn race at the Ferrari-owned Mugello circuit north of Florence in central Italy. Red Bull's British-born Thai driver Alexander Albon, whose Dutch team mate Max Verstappen retired in the gravel after a second corner collision, took third place for his first career F1 podium.

Hamilton's sixth win in nine races this season sent him 55 points clear of Bottas, with eight rounds remaining, and the Briton also took an extra point for fastest lap at a circuit making its F1 debut. "It was all a bit of a daze. It was like three races in one day," gasped Hamilton, who finished 4.880 seconds clear of Bottas for a record 222nd points finish in a race with three standing starts.

"All those restarts, the focus that's needed during that time, it's really, really hard," said the Briton, who started on pole but lost out to Bottas initially.

He turned the tables at the first standing re-start and retained the lead at the second.

The race was Ferrari's 1,000th championship grand prix but the best the sport's most successful team could manage was eighth for Charles Leclerc while team mate Sebastian Vettel finished 10th.

Australian Daniel Ricciardo was fourth for Renault, after looking good for a first podium since he joined the French team from Red Bull at the end of 2018, with Racing Point's Mexican Sergio Perez fifth and McLaren's Lando Norris sixth.

Mercedes, celebrating their 100th win in the modern era, are now 152 points clear of second-placed Red Bull in the constructors' standings.

The race was stopped eight laps in following a collision among backmarkers who sped up too early when the safety car had peeled off with Bottas leading and controlling the pace.

Debris was scattered across the main straight after McLaren's Carlos Sainz piled



into the back of Alfa Romeo's Antonio Giovinazzi with Haas's Kevin Magnussen and Williams' Nicholas Latifi also caught up. None were injured.

"Everyone in front of me thought the race was going and we were all flat out until someone realised the race was not on," said Sainz. "It's definitely not a nice feeling to do 280kph and suddenly find three cars in the middle of the straight."

The safety car had been deployed initially after Italian Grand Prix winner Pierre Gasly's AlphaTauri was launched into Verstappen's car after contact with Romain Grosjean's Haas and Kimi Raikkonen's Alfa Romeo.

The retirement was Verstappen's second in a row and third of the season.

The front wing of Vettel's Ferrari was also damaged in contact with Sainz, his replacement at the Italian team next year. The race was red-flagged again with 13 laps remaining when Canadian Lance Stroll crashed his Racing Point at the second Arrabbiata turn after a puncture, leaving the car a wreck. This time Ricciardo seized second from Bottas at the re-start only to be retaken by the Finn. Albon then passed him with eight laps to go.

The race, the first of the COVID-ravaged season to have a limited crowd, was the second in a row to be red-flagged and the first since Brazil 2016 to have two such stoppages.

Only 12 drivers finished, with AlphaTauri's Daniil Kvyat seventh and Raikkonen ninth after a five second time penalty. Williams' George Russell, still without an F1 point, ran as high as eighth and was in a scoring position when the race was stopped for the second time and took away his hard-earned advantage. He ended up 11th.

Lakers Rout Rockets, Advance to NBA West Finals

MIAMI (Dispatches) - LeBron James had 29 points and 11 rebounds as the Los Angeles Lakers advanced to their first NBA Western Conference final in a decade with a 119-96 blowout win over the Houston Rockets.

Anthony Davis tallied 13 points and 11 rebounds, Kyle Kuzma had 17 and Markieff Morris finished with 16 for the Lakers, who eliminated the Rockets in five games in the quarantine bubble in Orlando, Florida.

Los Angeles advanced to their first NBA final four since the Kobe Bryant-led Lakers beat Phoenix for the conference title and then defeated Boston for the 2010 NBA championship, the last time they won.

They will face either the Los Angeles Clippers or the Denver Nuggets in the next playoff round. The Clippers lead that series 3-2.

The Lakers got off to their best start of the series, dominating the opening 12 minutes to take a 15 point lead, 35-20, at the end of the first quarter.

Their only lull of the game came in the start of the second quarter when Houston briefly woke from their slumber and cut the lead to seven, 38-31. But the Lakers out-scored the Rockets 33-18 in the third quarter to take full command.

They drained 19 three pointers and shot 52 percent from the floor.

With the game in hand, the Lakers sat three-time NBA champion James and Davis for much of the fourth quarter.

Once again the James Harden-led Rockets put up little resistance as Houston, after surprising the Lakers in game one of the series, lost their fourth straight and third in a row by more than 10 points.

Harden led the Rockets with 30 points and Russell Westbrook scored just 10 in the loss.

Harden had a disappointing series, delivering another series of fourth quarter playoff disappearing acts that have pockmarked his career.

In the past five years, Harden has shot less than 25 percent from beyond the arc in post-season fourth quarters and overtime. He finished two-of-eight from three-point range on Saturday.



Italian Morbidelli's dominated at Misano Adriatico and finished ahead of countryman Francesco Bagnaia, riding for Ducati-Pramac, and Suzuki's Spanish rider Joan Mir in his maiden victory in motorcycling's elite class.

"I don't know how it feels, I still have to process everything," he told BT Sport.

"It's a good thing, a good feeling. I'm very happy, I'm enjoying the moment now. The only thing I can say is thanks to my team, to my people, all the people that have been working with me."

Yamaha SRT's Morbidelli, 25, who started second on the grid, overtook pole sitter Maverick Vinales on the first lap and never relinquished his lead, finishing

Morbidelli Wins Maiden MotoGP

ROME (Dispatches) - Franco Morbidelli recharged to his first ever MotoGP win on Sunday as Andrea Dovizioso capitalised on Fabio Quartararo crashing out of the San Marino race to take the championship lead.

Adriatico and finished ahead of countryman Francesco Bagnaia, riding for Ducati-Pramac, and Suzuki's Spanish rider Joan Mir in his maiden victory in motorcycling's elite class.

"I don't know how it feels, I still have to process everything," he told BT Sport.

"It's a good thing, a good feeling. I'm very happy, I'm enjoying the moment now. The only thing I can say is thanks to my team, to my people, all the people that have been working with me."

Yamaha SRT's Morbidelli, 25, who started second on the grid, overtook pole sitter Maverick Vinales on the first lap and never relinquished his lead, finishing

over two seconds ahead of Bagnaia on a great day for Italian riders in front of a limited crowd on home soil.

Fellow Italian Dovizioso finished back in seventh but his nine points put him six ahead of Frenchman and pre-race leader Quartararo, who scored nothing after first coming off the track on lap eight and again later in the race when already well off the pace.

Dovizioso is also 12 points ahead of Australian Jack Miller, who finished a place behind the Ducati rider, after six Grands Prix.

The 34-year-old will now be eyeing his first MotoGP championship after finishing behind six-time champ Marc Marquez, who is out for the rest of the 2020 campaign due to breaking his arm in the opening race, in each of the last three seasons.

The only negative for the home crowd, the first to be allowed to watching racing live this season due to the coronavirus pandemic, was Valentino Rossi failing to grab his 200th MotoGP podium after he was overtaken by Mir on the final lap to finish in fourth.

Thiem Claims U.S. Open Title After Thrilling Fightback

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Austria's Dominic Thiem finally claimed his maiden Grand Slam title with a stunning comeback to beat Germany's Alexander Zverev 2-6 4-6 6-4 6-3 7-6(6) in a nerve-jangling battle of wills in the U.S. Open final on Sunday.

The 27-year-old world number three appeared to have blown his golden chance as he fell two sets behind but hit back to become the first player to win a Grand Slam from having trailed by two sets since Gaston Gaudio at the 2004 French Open.

Thiem, who dropped only one set en route to the final, started as favourite but was stifled by nerves early on, trailing by a set and 5-1 as his evening threatened to become a nightmare on an eerie, almost empty Arthur Ashe stadium.

He gradually broke the shackles to hit back from a break down to take the third, however, and Zverev faltered on serve at 3-4 in a high-quality fourth set allowing Thiem to take a slow-burner of a contest to a decider. With one of the sport's biggest prizes within reach, both men raised their games in a gripping decider.

The 23-year-old Zverev, bidding to become the first German male to win a Grand Slam since Boris Becker won in New York in 1996, showed great composure to resist the Thiem charge and served for the title at 5-3.

With the match deep into its fourth hour, though, it had become not just a physical battle but a psychological one too.

First Zverev faltered with the title tantalisingly close, then Thiem could not hold serve for glory at 6-5 as a U.S. Open men's final moved into its first-ever fifth set tiebreak.



Everton Break Tottenham Jinx, Leicester City Win

LONDON (Reuters) - Everton ended a miserable run of form against Tottenham Hotspur as Dominic Calvert-Lewin's second-half header earned them a 1-0 away victory in their Premier League opener on Sunday.

Carlo Ancelotti gave debuts to three new signings including Colombian James Rodriguez but it was Sheffield-born Calvert-Lewin who gave Everton a dream start to the season as he headed powerfully home in the 55th minute.

Tottenham also gave debuts to right back Matt Doherty and midfielder Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg but were disappointing as they suffered a first defeat by Everton since 2012.

Their best chances came before the break as Everton goalkeeper Jordan Pickford denied both Dele Alli and Doherty.

Tottenham lacked imagination after Everton went ahead and the visitors held out with relative ease.

Meanwhile Jamie Vardy converted two penalties to help Leicester City get off to a winning start in the Premier League season with a 3-0 victory at promoted West Bromwich Albion on Sunday.

Vardy, the league's top scorer last season, and Dennis Praet both had drilled efforts well saved by West Brom goalkeeper Sam Johnstone in bright sunshine at the Hawthorns, with the hosts offering little in attack in the first half.

The visitors continued to dominate after the break and took the lead in the 56th minute through debutant Timothy Castagne -- a summer signing from Italian side Atalanta -- when the full back headed home a Praet cross.

