

The Director of the IAEA Rafael Grossi Is Reportedly Heading To Iran Subsequent Week To Press the Nation's Leaders To Entry Nuclear Storage Sites, In Accordance to Studies

IRAN NEWS

Top Military Aide to the Leader Major General Yahya Rahim Safavi Noted That Iran's Status During The Imposed War and the Current Economic War is the Same Due To the Resistance of Iran

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UAE to Be Treated as Enemy If Israel Hurts Iran Security

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran's highest-ranking military commander warned the United Arab Emirates that it will be held accountable for any harm to the Islamic Republic's security caused by the Zionist regime as the Arab country has normalized ties with Israel.

In a televised interview on Saturday night, Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Hossein Baqeri decried the UAE's move to normalize relations with Israel although the Emiratis had sent Iran messages over the past two years demanding that Tehran not treat them the same as Saudi Arabia.

Things changed when the UAE announced the normalization of relations with Israel, which means allowing the establishment of military bases and bases for intelligence and cyber operations, the commander noted.

"If the Zionists establish a foothold in the region and our defense and security are harmed, then we will regard them (UAE) as the one that has provided the enemy with bases, and will treat them as an enemy," Major General Baqeri warned. The commander further derided the Zionist regime's idea of ruling over regions from the Nile to the Euphrates, saying Israel is struggling to survive and would fall apart if the US halts its economic support for a moment.

The United Arab Emirates and Israel announced in August they have reached a deal that will lead to a full normalization of diplomatic relations.

The move has drawn strong criticism from many Islamic countries and regional organizations.

Almost Entire Iran Declared as COVID-19 "Red Zones"

TEHRAN (IFP) - The Iranian Health Ministry spokeswoman says 26 out of 31 provinces of the country are now in the "red" zone in terms of COVID-19 outbreak, and four other provinces are in the "orange" zone.

In a press briefing on Sunday, Sima-Sadat Lari said the novel coronavirus has killed 195 patients since Saturday noon, increasing the overall death toll to 26,589.

She said 446,448 patients have contracted the novel coronavirus so far, including 3,362 new cases identified in the past 24 hours.

So far, she added, 374,170 patients have recovered from the disease or been discharged from the hospital.

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IRGC Displays New Naval Ballistic Missile



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - The Commander of IRGC Aerospace Force noted that the country's defense sector enjoys high-tech equipment made by Iranian experts.

Iran's aerospace section and its achievements are standing at the world's top-level, Brigadier General Amir Ali Hajizadeh said on Sunday in the inauguration ceremony of an exhibition which showcases the achievements of the force. "When we talk about missile, drone, and radar development, these are cutting edge technologies and we are among the top five countries in these fields," he added.

He noted that the defense achievements of the country have been the result of experiences during Sacred Defense. "We learned from Imam Khomeini to stand on our own feet. Of course, we faced challenges in the path. At the time of the Soviet Union collapse, millions of dollars' worth missiles and launchers were being easily offered to us but the Leader of the Islamic Revolution opposed. If those purchases had been made, we would have not gained these achievements and this progress is the result of the wisdom of the Leader."

He noted that the exhibition aims to inject self-confidence in the younger generation while also transferring the key of these technologies to others.

The Brigadier General also said that country's problems can be solved with self-confidence.

The exhibition has been opened on the occasion of the Sacred Defense Week which marks the start of imposed Saddam Hussein's war on Iran in 1980.

He also hailed the Zolfaghar-e Basir missile, with a range of more than 700 kilometers (434 miles) as its new-generation ballistic missile -- after predecessors Khalij-e Fars and Hormuz -- to be used against mobile seaborne targets.

The newest projectile is fitted with a warhead that is guided by an optical seeker head. The precursors to the naval military achievement could respectively fly as far as 300 and 250 kilometers (186 and 155 miles).

Zolfaghar-e Basir's surface-to-surface version can also travel a 700-to-750-kilometer distance.

The Corps has previously deployed the missile against overseas targets such as gatherings of the terror group Daesh as well as the U.S.'s Ain al-Assad Airbase located in western Iraq. The latter operation was conducted in January after a U.S. drone strike assassinated Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani, former commander of the IRGC's Quds Force, in Baghdad.

"We have [well] understood the equations governing independence and esteem, and will never stop manufacturing power," General Salami said during the inauguration ceremony, which was also attended by the Aerospace Division's Commander Brigadier General Amir Ali Hajizadeh and Majlis (Parliament) Speaker Mohammad-Baqer Qalibaf.

The exhibition also demonstrated the IRGC's other capabilities in the areas of missiles, UAVs, satellites, defense systems, reconnaissance apparatuses, and electronic warfare, as well as some of the invading drones that have been successfully shot down by the Corps in the past, including American and Israeli ones.

Bomet to Sell Tea Direct to Iran, Rejects Auction

NAIROBI (Dispatches) - Bomet county is opposed to the new tea regulations proposed by Kenyan Cabinet Secretary Peter Munya because they won't benefit small-scale farmers, Governor Hillary Barchok has said.

The county has instead approached factory directors from the region to find an alternative. Barchok said his administration will sell tea produced at KTDA factories directly to willing buyers, bypassing the auction that is part of the new tea regulations. He spoke at Mogogosi tea factory where he hosted Iranian ambassador Jafar Marmaki who toured the county following a deal in which the county will sell directly to Tehran.

Iran is one of the leading buyers of Kenyan tea. Ambassador Marmaki said if the deal is successful, Kenya will also benefit as Iran is a corridor to other tea-buying countries such as Pakistan.

Marmaki expressed confidence the deal will be realized so farmers can reap maximum benefits.

He said despite Iran having been under sanctions for more than 40 years, he was optimistic Kenya will export directly, opening trade between the two countries. During the meeting attended by more than 15 directors of KTDA-managed factories in the region, the governor sought to defend the idea.

And, while many have welcomed the Munya regulations noting it is a solution to the long-standing pay issues that have faced smallholder tea farmers across the country, Barchok has rejected it. He said farmers will benefit from agreements with particular buyers since brokerage, transport and warehousing fees will be abolished.

At least 15 per cent of Kenyan tea undergoes direct sales at the moment with global prices relying heavily on the performance at the auction.

ViewPoint

By: Hamid Reza Naghashian



Suppose Trump Has Lost, Yet JCPOA?

Although condition of the presidential election in the U.S. shows everyday a different picture than the other day, President Donald Trump's recent remarks show that he has been frustrated and the topic of postmortem is in the hands of his Democrat rival Joe Biden.

Since something impossible is not impossible, let's suppose that Trump has lost the presidential election race and has stopped stubbornness, and the White House has been handed over to the Democrats since January 1, 2021 and they have announced readiness to return to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with some conditions. Then what conditions do we face? Should we stay in a JCPOA that the U.S. suddenly turned its back to all of its pillars and even Europeans did not take any step to save those pillars, or should we insist on our stand that the era of the JCPOA has ended and if it is an agreement to be reached it will be back to the square one, and this time should insist on amending the weaknesses of the childish negotiations of President Hassan Rouhani's team from Foreign Minister Mr. Mohammad Javad Zarif to his deputy Seyed Abbas Araghchi and even infiltrated spies in the negotiations? Who can believe Europeans' treasuries regarding the JCPOA with different games played by them which were aimed at killing the time?

At first, Europeans promised to launch the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) mechanism for trading oil for food and medicines. After months of burning opportunity, they claimed that they could not buy Iran oil but they were ready to launch another financial mechanism, called the INSTEX, which could help Iran to sell its oil to other countries in exchange for buying food and medicines.

First of all, the nature of these proposals was to deny Iran's rights. Secondly, even according to the United Nations Security Council's laws regarding the sanctioned country, food and medicines are exempt from sanctions. It has not been yet forgotten that Iraq during its sanctions era enjoyed its right of selling oil in exchange of food and medicines.

According to over 10 clauses stipulated in the text of the UN Resolution 2231, Europeans had undertaken to suspend financial, banking and oil sanction, and while the U.S. had violated the law, they should have stood beside Iran rather than ignoring to fulfill the basic principle "oil for food and medicines." But they neither acted to their JCPOA obligations nor to their void promises like launching the INSTEX. The only thing they did was to entertain the media and kill the time and to pretend having different stands in their statements with repetition of this big lie "We are committed to the JCPOA," and with such a cat-and-mouse game they closed Iran's hands in making decisions to pull out of the JCPOA that one can say they coordinated secretly inside Iran with President Rouhani's government.

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Iran Doesn't Care Who Takes Helm at White House

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - It does not matter to Iran who wins the U.S. presidential election as long as Washington has not shifted its unlawful policy of sanctions, Iran's ambassador to the United Nations says.

In comments on Saturday, Iran's permanent representative and ambassador to the United Nations Majid Takht-Ravanchi reiterated that Tehran has no intention of meddling in the U.S.' policies. "It doesn't matter to Iran who will be elected to the White House," the envoy added. This is the American people that would elect their next president, he emphasized. When it comes to the relations between Iran and the US, the first thing is that the US must abandon its illegal policies against the Islamic Republic, including the sanctions that have been in effect against Tehran for the past 40-some years, Takht-Ravanchi noted.

In remarks in July, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said no matter who wins the 2020 presidential election in the US, the next American administration must compensate the Islamic Republic for the losses that its predecessor has inflicted on the Iranian people.



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G5 Household Internet Service to Be Provided in 6 Months

TEHRAN (IRNA) - ICT Minister Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi said on Sunday that the fifth generation of household Internet service will be available by the next six months.

Azari Jahromi made the remarks in a ceremony in the Iranian capital where different applications of G5 Internet service were put on display. The minister said that permits for providing Generation 5 Internet service have been issued by the Communication Regulatory Commission, as well.

He said that the government will make its best to provide the fifth generation of household Internet services for the most populated areas of the country by the next six months.

Iran Doesn't Buy or Borrow Its Security

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iranian Army Commander noted that unlike some regional countries whose security heavily depends on others, Iran is relying on indigenous knowledge to bring about peace and security.

Speaking at the open session of Iran's Parliament on the occasion of the Sacred Defense Week, Major General Seyyed Abdolrahim Mousavi noted that the Sacred Defense is a great example of the resistance and the unity of the Iranians against the enemy that resulted into a great victory.

During the 8 years of the Imposed War by Iraq, Iran's Army and the IRGC with the support of the Basij forces and Iranian nation under the leadership of Imam Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Revolution, created the miracle of the century, Mousavi added.

He went on to explain, "Although the victory of the Iranian nation in that unequal war looked like a miracle, however, in my opinion, the result of this victory is the miracle of the century due to the fact that it changed the strategic equations of the century."

Referring to the dependency of Iran Air Force on importing military equipment before the victory of the Islamic Revolution, Mousavi underlined, "However, today, the Islamic Republic of Iran is relying on indigenous knowledge of Iranian experts in



the defense industry to produce homegrown military equipment."

Unlike some regional countries whose security heavily depends on others, the Islamic Republic of Iran has brought about full security in its seas that the presence of US –backed countries cannot tarnish this authoritarian security, he explained.

Mousavi also added that in the second phase of the Islamic Revolution, the global arrogance has to witness an Islamic, independent and powerful Iran gloriously moving toward maritime progress and development.

Elsewhere in his remarks said that several years after the ending of Iran-Iraq war, today, Iran Army is still at the forefront of maintaining peace and security in the eastern and western borders of the country, in the field of natural disasters like earthquakes and flood, as well as the fight against Coronavirus.

U.S. Terrorist Attack on Martyr Soleimani an Insult to Iraqi Gov't

TEHRAN (IRNA) – Majlis Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said late on Saturday that the terrorist attack on Martyr Qasem Soleimani was an insult to the Iraqi government and violation of its independence.

In a meeting with the Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein late on Saturday, Qalibaf added that Iran has always highlighted the sovereignty, security, independence and integrity of Iraq.

"We believe that the current Iraq has a positive, important and influential role in the region," he said.

Qalibaf also blasted the U.S. interference in the region and presence of Daesh terrorists as a scourge of peace, stability and prosperity in Iraq and region.

Certain regional countries, under US pressure, began to normalize relations with the Zionist regime. Certainly, the Islamic world should not remain silent on this issue because the issue of Palestine is the first priority of the Islamic Ummah, he said.

Reaffirming Iran's support for Iraq as an Islamic and neighboring state, Qalibaf recalled that one of the most important demands of the Iraqi people, government and parliament is U.S. withdrawal from this country, which is the root of insecurity.

The only way out of the problems is U.S. exit from Iraq, he reiterated.

Fuad Hussein, for his part, described Tehran-Baghdad ties as strategic and called for further strengthening them.

"Today, I traveled to the neighboring and brotherly country of Iran, to which the history and geography of our country are linked and we have common political and economic interests," he said.

Tehran Adopted 'Transparent Approach' in Its Cooperation With IAEA

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) said the Islamic Republic has adopted a "transparent approach" in its cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

"International day for the elimination of nuclear weapons, provides an opportunity to correct and modify the global tyrannical mentality concerning the #peaceful use of #nuclear_energy.@realDonaldTrump @SecPompeo," the AEOI tweeted on Saturday marking the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

"Today, many countries have resorted to the use of nuclear energy, but the Islamic Republic of Iran, with a transparent approach, has demonstrated more cooperation with the @iaeaorg. This issue proves the

rightfulness of using this energy for the Iranian people," it added in a follow-up tweet.

"The @aeoinews with an outlook based on peaceful use of the nuclear technology has promoted its scientific programs in the areas of health, agriculture, food, radiopharmaceuticals, stable isotopes and etc. in a precise and determined manner and #sanctions imposed on #Iranian_nuclear_scientists will not interrupt Iran's nuclear program strategic principle," it said in another tweet.

The AEOI further quoted Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei as saying, "The Islamic Republic of Iran has never sought nuclear weapons and will not surrender the right of its people to peaceful use of nuclear energy."

Zarif Terms U.S. Sanctions Example of Medical Terrorism

TEHRAN (MNA) – Emphasizing the negative impact of US sanctions on Iran's response to the coronavirus crisis, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif called Washington's actions an example of 'medical terrorism'.

In an interview with Russia Today, the Iranian foreign minister described as "lie" the U.S. claims that unilateral sanctions had no effect on humanitarian items, stressing that such U.S. actions were in fact "medical terrorism".

He strongly criticized the U.S. unilateral action against Iran, saying that the US efforts to block Iran's oil exports have limited Tehran's ability to respond to the coronavirus crisis.

Due to the U.S. sanctions, the Islamic Republic of Iran does not even have access to some of its funds outside the country to buy medicine, he added.

Referring to the epidemic of coronavirus and the need for cooperation of all countries to combat this unknown virus, Zarif said that the virus makes no distinction between rich and poor, weak and strong, friend and foe, and it has hurt all, so that all the countries need to work together to fight this virus.

Unfortunately, the United States continues to prevent Iran even from purchasing drugs and vaccines for the virus.

Iran Urges Armenia, Azerbaijan to Show Restraint

TEHRAN (IFP) - The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran called on the Republic of Azerbaijan and Armenia to exercise self-restraint following the latest military escalation in the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran is closely and worriedly monitoring the military clashes between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia," Foreign Ministry Spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said in a Sunday statement.

"Iran calls on the two sides to exercise self-restraint, and demands an immediate end to the clashes and the launch of dialogue between the two states," the spokesman added.

The spokesman also expressed Iran's readiness to employ all of its capacities to help establish a ceasefire and start negotiations between the warring sides.

Heavy fighting between the military forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Armenia broke out in the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region on Sunday.

Armenia and Armenian-controlled Nagorno-Karabakh declared martial law, while the Republic of Azerbaijan has ordered its military to mobilize.

Tehran, Baghdad Poised to Broaden Bilateral Defense Cooperation

TEHRAN (MNA) – Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq explored avenues for broadening and enhancing bilateral ties in the defense field.

The Deputy General Staff of Iran's Armed Forces for International Affairs and Chairman of Iran-Iraq Joint Military Commission Brigadier General Ghadir Nezami met and held talks with visiting Iraqi Defense Minister Juma Anad Saadoun on Sunday.

In this bilateral meeting, the two sides discussed the expansion of defensive and military cooperation as well as fighting terrorism.

Iran, Iraq along with Syria are cooperating with one another against terrorism in the Joint Security Committee.

The quadrilateral committee of exchanging security cooperation between Iran, Iraq, Russia and Syria was launched in 2015 in Baghdad with the aim of exchanging data for fighting terrorism with the membership of military attaches of Iran, Syria, Russia and representative of Iraq.

€500m Investment To Be Made in Chabahar

ZAHEDAN (IRNA) - Chabahar potentials have attracted many investors and a company has requested to make €550m investment in Chabahar, deputy governor of Sistan and Baluchestan for economic affairs said on Sunday.

Mandana Zangeneh said that thanks to its water capacities, access to ocean, having common border with Pakistan and enjoying economic zone's incentives, Chabahar has become one of the most strategic areas in Iran for businessmen and investors.

She added that an investment company has made proposal to set up refinery and produce fuel for heavy vessels so that the project is predicted to need 400-500 million Euros.

The first phase of the project will start with €150m credit, she noted.

She pointed to the project of building a hotel with 300 apartments in south of the province, saying it will be carried out in three phases.

Chabahar, as Iran's only ocean port, plays an important role in developing trade, exports, and imports and in fishing as well.

2 Border Guards Martyred In Clash With Armed Miscreants

TEHRAN (IP) - Two border guards of the Islamic Republic of Iran were martyred in a clash with armed miscreants in the southwest of the country.

Border Commander of Khuzestan province, Brigadier General Lotfali Pakbaz said: "Yesterday evening (Saturday), a border patrol was patrolling in Hoor al-Azim, carrying out assigned missions. Armed miscreants clashed with them in that area."

Referring to the martyrdom of two border guards of the Islamic Republic of Iran in this armed clash, Brigadier General Pakbaz added: "One of the border guards of Iran was also injured in this conflict and was taken to hospital and was under treatment."

The border commander of Khuzestan province stated: "In this clash, armed miscreants also suffered damages and casualties, the news of which will be announced through the official media as soon as the information is completed."

Emphasizing that martyrdom is one of the honors of the honorable sons of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the border, Brigadier General Pakbaz went on to say: "Iran's border guards will never allow miscreants and smugglers to disrupt the borders or deprive the people of security and comfort."

Iran Never to Stop Producing Power



TEHRAN (MNA) – Sating that the Iranian youth are able to defeat the will of the enemies, Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Major General Hossein Salami said that Iran will never stop producing power.

He made the remarks on the sideline of the inauguration ceremony of IRGC Aerospace Force permanent exhibition on Sunday. Emphasizing that this exhibition represents the emergence of a new power in the international arena, Salami said that the exhibition is a clear symbol of the national confidence of Iran and shows that the thought and thinking of Iranian youth are able to defeat the will of the enemies.

He added that the amazing advances which have been displayed in this exhibition were made exactly during the sanction period, saying that it means Iran is able to create an opportunity from sanctions, and this opportunity is the same scientific and technological advances that can be seen at least in the field of defense power.

"We will never stop producing power, and we acquired science and technology development techniques and formulas to defend the vital interests and values of our country," Salami highlighted. "In all areas of society's development, we can grow accordingly and meet all our needs internally, relying on our internal capacities," IRGC chief commander noted.

Rouhani Felicitates Turkmenistan Independence Day

TEHRAN (IFP) - President Hassan Rouhani has expressed confidence that Tehran's relations with Ashgabat would continue to grow in various fields considering the two neighbors' commonalities.

In a message to his Turkmen counterpart Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow on Sunday, President Rouhani congratulated the government and people of Turkmenistan on the anniversary of independence from the Soviet Union. As two close neighbors, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkmenistan have held perfect relations based on good neighborliness ever since Turkmenistan has gained independence, the president added.

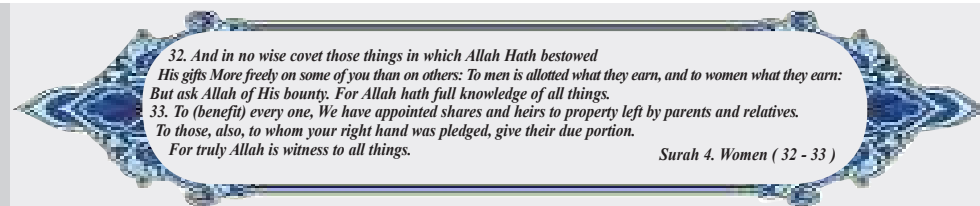
"I am confident that the two countries, inspired by the rich cultures and the common historical background, would continue their valuable efforts to promote the political, economic and cultural cooperation," President Rouhani stated.

The president finally wished the Turkmen leader and nation health, success and prosperity. The Independence Day of Turkmenistan is the main state holiday in the Central Asian country that is celebrated annually on October 27.



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	11:54
■ Evening (Maghreb)	18:10
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:34
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	05:58



Iran Warned Over Losing Iraq Market To Its Rivals

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Chairman of the Iran-Iraq Chamber of Commerce Yahya Ale-Ishaq says Iran will find it hard to dominate Iraq's market as its rivals are ready to enter this country.

Speaking to Tasnim News Agency, Ale-Eshaq said that evidences show that in case the security and peace is restored fully in Iraq, the U.S., Europe and many other countries in the region are after long term cooperation with this country.

He added that the most important issue is to know threats and opportunities for both countries, adding that Iran can cooperate resolving regional problems due to the mutual capacities of both states and ways of development. So we should properly take exploit opportunities of economic cooperation with Iraq, he added.

Ale-Eshaq added that if Iran pursues short term interests and implements the same programs in the Central Asia in Iraq, it will definitely face problem and rivals will replace it in the Iraq market. He admitted Iran's rivals are waiting for restoration of security in Iraq to take back Iraq's market from Iran.

He noted that China, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and other Arab states are Iran's rivals in Iraq and they are after dominating Iraq market and some of those countries also follow seriously political and security issues apart from economic in Iraq.

He further said that Saudi Arabia is concerned about sustainable economic relation between Iran and Iraq because rise in Iran and Iraq relations will be against Saudi Arabia's interests. Hence, Saudis are after serious presence in Iraq to become a serious obstacle for Iran's presence in this country.



Ale-Eshaq pointed to the electricity issue as an example, saying that since Iraq is in dire need of electricity, Saudis in cooperation with Americans is trying to take the control of power stations and provision of electricity in Iraq in their own control in the long term, and it will help them to lessen Iraq's dependence and cooperation with Iran.

He reiterated that Europeans are also waiting for restoration of security in Iraq in order to enter this country's market and in case they enter, the condition for Iran will become very tough. Ale-Eshaq added Iran and Iraq have agreed to increase their trade volume to \$20b and the ground for it has been prepared and it is expected to be materialized in the next five years.

He noted that Iran's exports to Iraq stood at \$12b last year and the country earned \$3b for exporting energy, technical and engineering services.

Raw materials, foodstuff, cement, steel and general goods were of the major exports of Iran to Iraq, he added.

Ale-Eshaq further said that the Coronavirus pandemic has affected the trade for both states and due to the fall in Iraq's oil revenues, the volume of bilateral trade with Iran has also been affected and it is expected Iran's exports to Iraq to be around \$9b this year.

Daily Gas Production in SP Phases 22, 24 at 40 mcm

TEHRAN (MNA) – The Director of Refinery No. 12 of South Pars Gas Field (SPGF) put the daily gas production in Phases 22 and 24 of the Field at 40 million cubic meters (mcm).

Mehdi Gerami Shirazi added, "Since SP phases 22 and 24 have newly been launched, their daily gas production capacity has reached 40 million cubic meters."

Presently, Refinery No. 12 of South Pars delivers about 46 million cubic meters gas per day while more than 40 million cubic meters of gas is produced and exported, he stated.

Elsewhere in his remarks, he pointed to the commissioning of propane and butane production units and added, "In Refinery No. 12, 1,080 and 600 tons of propane and butane is produced per day respectively."

Production of other refinery products is underway according to the scheduled program, Gerami maintained.

Presently, about 70 percent of gas consumed in the country is provided from South Pars Joint Gas Field, he said, adding, "Inauguration of new phases in the government dubbed 'Hope and Prudence' in tandem with construction of onshore facilities has increased gas supply significantly."

Iran Cosmetic Export Hit \$10m in 5 Month

TEHRAN (MNA) –The Spokesman of the Iranian Customs Administration said that in the first 5 months of the current year ending on Sep. 21, Iran has exported 13,765 tons of beauty and health products worth more than \$10 million to 21 countries.

In the first five months of the current Iranian year (March 20-September 21), Iran has exported 13,765 tons of beauty and health products worth \$10,598, 620 million to 21 countries, Seyed Ruhollah Latifi said.

According to Latifi, Iranian beauty products including shampoos, health products, and cosmetics for face, skin, fingernails, and toenails, compressed powders for cosmetic purposes, beauty and hygiene products for skincare and all kinds of sunscreens, hair fixatives as well as cleansing products such as toothpaste, types of soap have exported to countries such as Afghanistan, England, Germany, Canada, Austria, Hong Kong, Kuwait, Oman, UAE, Russia, Iraq, Bahrain, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Armenia, as Kazakhstan during the mentioned period.

According to the Spokesman of the Iranian Customs Administration, the three main destinations for the export of Iranian health and beauty products are Afghanistan, Iraq, and Azerbaijan, respectively.

New Industry Minister Pick Confers With Private Sector

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – President Hassan Rouhani's new pick for taking charge of the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry met with the representatives of the country's private sector at Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) on Saturday.

In the meeting with Alireza Razm Hosseini, the ICCIMA members addressed the most important problems in the way of boosting domestic production and outlined the priorities that the ministry should

pursue during the final months of the current government's office, ICCIMA portal reported.

Speaking in the gathering, the ICCIMA Head Gholam-Hossein Shafeie underlined the strong background of the proposed minister and said: "Mr. Razm Hosseini has an important characteristic compared to other cabinet members, he has already been engaged with the private sector for 20 years. Accordingly, we hope that someone like him will be able to make up for the shortcomings of the Industry Ministry, especially in the past months, when it was run without a minister."

Also in the meeting, Saeed Mombeini, the chairman of Iran Chamber of Guilds (ICG), criticized the Industry Ministry's lack of paying attention to guilds and small commercial units, saying: "Despite the Leader's emphasis on production over the past years, unfortunately, little practical results have been achieved in this area, and the commercial sector has also been neglected. However, if we believe that the commercial sector is also a stimulus for production, we will pay more attention to this sector."

The private sector representatives expressed hope that with the new minister taking office, the Industry Ministry will place more importance on the private sector as a crucial player in the country's economic development.

Razm Hosseini for his part pointed to market management, downsizing and streamlining, creating full coherence in the Ministry of Industry's interaction with related institutions and ministries, cooperating with the private sector, and taking advantage of the sector's views as its most important plans for his ministry.



SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT

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Subject of Tender: Wire Rope 1-5/8

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National Iranian Drilling Company	19/348/494	TenderNo. PF/99/078 Indent No: 01-22-9946005	10,000,000,000

• Qualitative evaluation of tenderers

Method	Qualification process will be done in plain mode in offers opening session according to presentation of valid practice certificate / legal documents (certificate of corporation/ supply announcement up to latest changes) which should be related to tender subject.
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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. (closing date : 12 OCT 2020)	
	Distribution Place	Hall No.:113, 1st floor, Foreign Procurement Dept., National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN Tel : 061 34148601
	Submitting Method	• Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt in the amount of 190,000 Iranian Rials under account number 4001114004020491(Shaba No. IR 520100004001114004020491) in name of "NIDC Incomes Centralized Fund" issued by I.R. of Iran Central Bank. • Submitting format Request for the purpose of receiving Tender Documents.
Documents Receiving Method	Closing date	• 35 Days after the last time of Purchasing. (Closing date (21 NOV 2020) • The envelopes will be opened At 9 a.m. On (22 NOV 2020)
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Duration of credit & quotation	Tender Guarantee and quotation should be valid for 90 days and extendable maximum for one time in initial validity duration.

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ESCO's Products to Transform Construction Sector in Afghanistan

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

ISFAHAN – Chairman of chamber of commerce of Pakia Province of Afghanistan Dr. Alamyar, accompanied by a delegation, on September 17, visited the production line of Esfahan Steel Company (ESCO) and during the visit he talked with manager of marketing and exports department of the company Mr. Muhammad Nouranianrad on developing bilateral cooperation.

In the meeting, Dr. Alamyar said that the visit to ESCO was aimed at developing trade as well as using the specialty and potentials of the company in Afghanistan. He further said that diversity and quality of ESCO products is talk of the town, and he visited the company because of the long history of this company in developing steel industry in Iran.

He further said with the talks held with the officials of the company, it is expected the cooperation to enhance in order that Afghan people could enjoy using unique products of ESCO.

Alamyar termed rail as a strategic steel product and added that rail production needs specialty, experience and skill that ESCO has attained it well and it can meet domestic and regional countries' needs with producing this product.

He reiterated that Afghanistan is developing and it can be a good ground for entrance of Iran into the South East Asia via rail lines.

Alamyar said Afghanistan is a new market that can be a good customer for good quality products of ESCO, adding that Afghanistan can also meet demands of its steel companies' needs to raw materials by developing its relations with Iran and it can be a good deal for both sides.

He also pointed to strengthening in the construction industry, adding that Afghanistan can be a good market for sales of construction products and he is sure that by the increase of ESCO products in Afghanistan market, construction sector in this country will evolve.

Meanwhile Mr. Nouranianrad, for his part, highlighted current condition in the international markets and pointed to the possibility for increase of trade volume and investment in Afghanistan, creating development of infrastructures for foreign joint venture in the mine and steel sector, lowering the tariff on imports of steel products and decreasing domestic transportation cost in Afghanistan. He then announced ESCO's readiness for export of technical and engineering services to Afghanistan.



China's FM May Visit Japan as Early as October

TOKYO (Reuters) - China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi may visit Japan as early as October for talks with his Japanese counterpart Toshimitsu Motegi and Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, public broadcaster NHK reported.

The visit would come after Suga on Friday held talks on the phone with Chinese President Xi Jinping. The two leaders agreed to pursue high-level contacts in a bid to promote regional and international stability.

Suga, who became prime minister this month must manage relations with Japan's bigger neighbour as ties between China and the United States worsen amid the coronavirus pandemic and lingering trade friction.



Yemen Prisoner Swap Agreed

DUBAI (AFP) - Both sides in Yemen's war agreed to exchange more than 1,000 prisoners during UN-sponsored talks in Switzerland, sources from both sides said on Saturday.

The government, supported by a Saudi-led military coalition, and Iran-backed Huthi rebels agreed to exchange some 15,000 detainees as part of a peace deal brokered by the United Nations in Sweden in 2018.

The two sides have since made sporadic prisoner swaps, but the release of hundreds of loyalists and insurgents -- if it materializes -- would mark the first large-scale handover since the war erupted in 2014. "A deal to exchange 1,081 prisoners has been reached," a member of the government delegation told AFP on condition of anonymity.



Belarus Police Detain Dozens at Women's Rallies



MINSK (AFP) - More than 90 people were detained at opposition rallies in Belarus on Saturday as women demonstrators took to the streets to protest against strongman Alexander Lukashenko's regime.

Hundreds of people took part in protest rallies in Minsk, with some women carrying portraits of Lukashenko's rival Svetlana Tikhanovskaya and others chanting "Sveta the president", referring to the 38-year-old opposition figure.

Riot police wearing black balaclavas were deployed on the streets of Minsk and detained peaceful women.

The demonstrations were the latest in a series of women's protests calling for the strongman leader to leave following his disputed victory in elections last month.

At least 95 people -- mostly women -- were detained in the capital Minsk and other cities including the southwestern city of Brest, said rights group Viasna.

A number of journalists covering the rallies were among those detained.

Several street musicians who performed a popular Soviet-era song that has become a protest anthem were also arrested, Viasna said.

The latest protests took place after Lukashenko had been sworn into a sixth term in office during a secret ceremony on Wednesday.

He claimed to have won 80 percent of the vote in August 9 polls despite huge support for his opposition rival Tikhanovskaya.

The top Belarusian opposition Telegram channel, Nexta Live, which has more than 2 million subscribers, urged people to take to the streets Sunday for a symbolic "people's inauguration of the real president" Tikhanovskaya.

Syria Accuses U.S. Using Sanctions to Suffocate Syrians



NEW YORK (Reuters) - Syria's foreign minister accused U.S. President Donald Trump's administration on Saturday of attempting to suffocate Syrians with sanctions "just like George Floyd and others were cruelly suffocated in the United States."

New U.S. sanctions that took effect in June under the so-called Caesar Act have further crippled the war-torn country's already crumbling economy by prohibiting foreign companies trading with Damascus.

Addressing the United Nations General Assembly via a pre-recorded video on Saturday, Syria's Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Walid Al-Moualeem likened the effect of the sanctions to the death of Floyd, a Black American who died in May after a white police officer knelt on his neck.

"The real purpose of the Act is to put pressure on Syrians, their livelihoods, and their daily lives. It is an inhumane attempt to suffocate Syrians, just like George Floyd and others were cruelly suffocated in the United States," Al-Moualeem said.

The U.S. mission to the United Nations did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

In June, Russia also made a veiled reference to Floyd's death, which sparked protests across the United States and around the world, when it slammed U.S. policy toward Iran as like "putting a knee" to the country's neck.

Washington says the sanctions aim to cut revenue for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's government and push him back into U.N.-led talks to end the more than eight-year-long conflict.

North Korea Warns of Naval Tensions

SEOUL (Reuters) - North Korea said on Sunday it is searching for the body of South Korean official killed by its troops, but warned that South Korean naval operations in the area threatened to raise tensions.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un issued a rare apology on Friday for the fatal shooting of the South Korean fisheries official in North Korean waters.

Seoul then urged Pyongyang to further investigate the fatal shooting and suggested it could be a joint probe by the two sides. South Korea's military has accused the North's soldiers of killing the man, dousing his body in fuel and setting it on fire near the sea border.

North Korean state news agency KCNA said on Sunday that the country's authorities were considering ways to hand over the body to the South if it is found.

The report called it an "awful case which should not have happened" but warned that South Korean naval operations near the site of the incident had crossed into North Korean waters.

"We urge the south side to immediately halt the intrusion across the military demarcation line in the west sea that may lead to escalation of tensions," KCNA said.

A spokesman for South Korea's Ministry of National Defense had no immediate comment on the North's accusations.

South Korea has mobilised 39 vessels, including 16 naval ships, and six aircraft for the search, which continued on Sunday despite the North Korean complaints, South Korean news agency Yonhap said.

North Korea was beginning its own search operation to recover the body, KCNA said.

"We also took more necessary security measures in order to make sure that no more incident spoiling the relations of trust and respect between the north and the south would happen in any case, true to the intention of our Supreme Leadership," the report added, without elaborating.

Malaysia's Ruling Coalition Wins First Electoral Test

KUALA LUMPUR (Reuters) - Malaysian Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin's ruling coalition won a key state election on Saturday, in a vote that was widely seen as a referendum on his seven-month-old administration.

The victory in Sabah state in Borneo is likely to strengthen Muhyiddin's position as he faces a leadership challenge from opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim, who said this week he had the parliamentary majority needed to oust the premier.

Muhyiddin's Perikatan Nasional (PN) coalition and its allies won 38 of the 73 seats up for grabs in Saturday's election, narrowly taking control of the previously opposition-held state.

Muhyiddin said earlier that victory in Sabah could pave the way for early national elections aimed at ending uncertainty over the stability of his ruling alliance, which has a two-seat majority in parliament.

Muhyiddin came to power in March after forming an alliance with opposition parties following the shock resignation of his predecessor, Mahathir Mohamad.



Muhyiddin's opponents have accused him of stealing power by shifting alliances instead of at the ballot box, and his allies have been pressuring him for months to call snap national polls to secure a strong mandate.

"He will use the victory to dismiss any challenge to federal leadership. Muhyiddin can now confidently lead a

federal coalition in a general election," said Adib Zalkapli, a director with political risk consultancy BowerGroupAsia.

On Wednesday, Anwar declared that he had secured a "formidable" majority to claim the premiership - something Muhyiddin dismissed as a "mere allegation".

The power struggle comes as the Malaysian economy reels from the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

Muhyiddin has announced a stimulus package of 305 billion ringgit (941.02 million pounds), including additional measures announced just three days ahead of the Sabah polls.

Dozens Killed in Jihadist Attack on Nigeria Governor's Convoy

PARIS (AFP) - The death toll from a jihadist attack on the convoy of the regional governor in northeast Nigeria has risen to 30, security sources said Saturday.

Two sources told AFP fatalities from the attack Friday in restive Borno state had doubled as more bodies were found and now included 12 policemen, five soldiers, four members of a government-backed militia and nine civilians.

"The tally has increased to 30 as many bodies were picked in the surrounding areas after the attack," one of the sources said, adding that "many people were injured".

Sources had earlier told AFP that a convoy transporting Borno governor Babagana Umara Zulum came under attack from insurgents on Friday near the town of Baga on the shores of Lake Chad.

A second security source gave the same death toll of 30 from the assault and said the militants seized eight vehicles.

"The terrorists made away with an armoured personnel carrier, a gun truck and six sports utility vehicles in the convoy," the source said.

Police confirmed in a statement that the attack by suspected jihadists on the "security convoy" had killed eight policemen and three government-backed militia members.

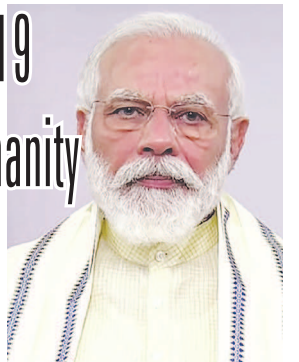
It said 13 other people had been wounded and the attack had been "successfully repelled".

Zulum -- who sources said was unhurt in the attack -- had flown to the area to prepare for the return of residents displaced from Baga by the conflict.

He was driving in the convoy accompanied by government officials under tight security towards Baga ahead of the arrival of the returnees.

The IS-affiliated Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) group maintains most of its camps on islands in Lake Chad and the region is known as a bastion for the jihadists. The militant group has recently intensified attacks on military and civilian targets in the region.

Modi Offers India's COVID-19 Vaccine Capacity to All Humanity



NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has pledged at the United Nations that his country's vaccine production capacity would be made available globally to fight the coronavirus crisis.

"As the largest vaccine-producing country of the world, I want to give one more assurance to the global community today," Modi said in a prerecorded speech to the UN General Assembly.

"India's vaccine production and delivery capacity will be used to help all humanity in fighting this crisis."

Modi made the pledge even as India is struggling to contain the spread of the virus, which has already infected 5.9 million Indians and left more than 93,000 dead nationwide -- the third-highest fatality toll in the world.

Modi said India was moving ahead with phase three clinical trials -- the large-scale trials considered the gold standard for determining safety and efficacy -- and would help all countries enhance their cold chain and storage capacities for the delivery of vaccines.

Modi said in August that India was ready to mass-produce COVID-19 vaccines when scientists gave the go-ahead.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has been pushing for a "people's vaccine" that is available and affordable everywhere and expressed concern on Tuesday that some countries were "reportedly making side deals exclusively for their own populations."



Shanon
(adviser)

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S/pool, Sauna
L.balcony
yard, pkg
fireplace
Fully Furn

Zaferanieh Villa (\$6000)
1000sq.m
600sq.m b/up
5bdrs, S/p
Sauna, J
green yard

Parsian

Jordan (\$1300)
140sq.m, 2bdrs, F.F

Zaferanieh (\$1400)
120sq.m, 2bdrs, S/pool
S, J, roof garden, pkg
balcony, green yard, F.F

Darrous bldg
3storey, 10bdrs, F.F

Niavaran (\$2000)
200sq.m, 3bdrs, F.F

Elahieh bldg (\$5000)
4storey, 12bdrs, pkgs

Elahieh (\$1800)
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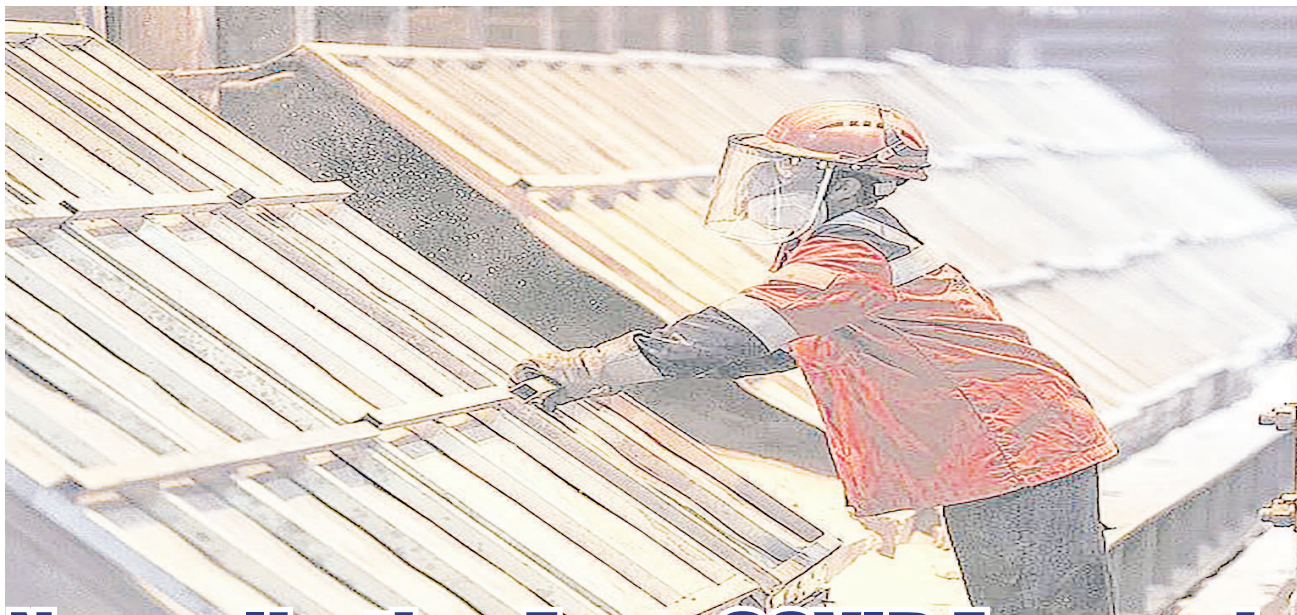
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Russia Sees Oil Output Rising After OPEC+ Deal Expires

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russia expects its oil production to increase after the current OPEC+ deal on output curbs runs its course in April 2022, data from the economy ministry published on Saturday showed.

Russia, which the ministry expects to produce 507.4 million tons of oil this year, is seen increasing its production over the next three years to 560 million tons, or 11.2 million barrels per day, in 2023. Ministry data forecasts an increase in oil exports to 266.2 million tons by 2023, slightly lower than last year's exports.

The ministry forecast oil exports of 225 million tons this year, down from 269.2 million tons in 2019.



Normalization From COVID Economic Disruption to Take Longer in SE Asia

NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - Normalization from COVID-19 economic disruption is expected to take longer in India, Japan, Australia and most of southeast Asia, according to a new report by S & P Global Ratings titled 'Asia Pacific's Recovery

"The pandemic is not over but the worst of its economic impact has passed," said Shaun Roache, Asia Pacific Chief Economist for S & P Global Ratings.

"Governments are adopting more targeted strategies for flattening COVID curves with less recourse to nationwide lockdowns. Households are spending again on services as well as goods."

COVID-19 is proving hard to beat but fatality rates are falling and prospects have brightened for a widely available vaccine by mid-2021. In the meantime, people are moving and spending more, testament to a world becoming accustomed to Covid-19. Trade, for example, has bottomed.

As a whole, S & P expects Asia Pacific economies to shrink by 2 per cent in 2020 and rebound by 6.9 per cent next year. This will still leave the region almost 5 per cent below the pre-COVID trend by end 2021.

S & P expects India's economy to contract by 9 per cent in FY21 (as compared to minus 5 per cent forecast earlier) and grow by 10 per cent in FY21 (as compared to 8.5 per cent forecast earlier). A significant proportion of this rebound will be due to very weak base in the current fiscal year.

"The hard work now begins," said Roache. "As relief measures taper, we will find out how much economic damage has been wrought."

The S & P report said China will continue to lead Asia's uneven recovery from COVID-19 economic disruption with 2.1 per cent GDP growth in 2020 and 6.9 per cent in 2021.

Trade and manufacturing will contribute to Asia Pacific's growth but a self-sustaining recovery will require a service sector rebound. Of Asia Pacific's 1.63 billion workers, about 270 million or 17 per cent work in manufacturing.

This is a large number but it is only 7 million jobs higher than a decade ago. About 18 per cent of the total or 300 million people work in the hospitality and retail sectors, an increase of more than 60 million jobs over the past decade.

Other services account for more than 440 million jobs. "Only when the service sector normalizes will the region get back to full employment," said the report.

Thailand Tackles Unemployment With Million Jobs Expo

BANGKOK (Reuters) - Tens of thousands of Thais on Saturday flocked to a government-organised job expo with more than a million jobs up for grabs as it works to stem mounting unemployment in an economy battered by the coronavirus pandemic.

Southeast Asia's second-largest economy could shrink by a record 8.5% this year, with its key tourism sector taking a beating, the government predicts, leaving young and old alike searching for work.

More than 570 booths, from public organisations, private firms and for roles overseas, were set up for job seekers at a "JOB EXPO THAILAND 2020" in Bangkok, which runs until Monday.

"I got laid off," said 23-year-old Chanissara Prommas. "I used to work for Hong Kong Airlines, but the company couldn't deal with the cost, so they had to let go some of the staff".

Teera Magaumpai, 50, who lost his job after 30 years in the tourist sector, said the big crowd reflected huge unemployment and "elders have to fight with first jobbers".

Some of Thailand's biggest firms were among those offering jobs, including agribusiness Charoen Pokphand Foods CPF. BK, Telecoms firm True Corp and energy group PTT, which is majority owned by the government.

Although Thailand, which has suffered just 3,522 coronavirus infections, has lifted most restrictions and daily life and work is mostly back to normal, a ban on foreign tourists remains in place, cutting a swathe through a whole sector of career opportunities.

About 1.24 million jobs will be offered - with most in the private sector, and a little over 100,000 in roles overseas. Of that total, the government will help companies pay half in hiring 260,000 new graduates for a year.



Some 3,500 U.S. Companies Sue Over Trump-Imposed Chinese Tariffs

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - About 3,500 U.S. companies, including Tesla Inc, Ford Motor Co, Target Corp, Walgreen Co and Home Depot have sued the Trump administration in the last two weeks over the imposition of tariffs on more than \$300 billion in Chinese-made goods.

The suits, filed in the U.S. Court of International Trade, named U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and the Customs and Border Protection agency and challenge what they call the unlawful escalation of the U.S. trade war with China through the imposition of a third and fourth round of tariffs.

The legal challenges from a wide variety of companies argue the Trump administration failed to impose tariffs within a required 12-month period and did not comply with administrative procedures.

The companies challenge the administration's "unbounded and unlimited trade war impacting billions of dollars in goods imported from the People's Republic of China by importers in the United States," according to a suit filed by auto parts manufacturer Dana Corp. The suits challenge tariffs in two separate groups known as List 3 and List 4A." List 3 includes 25% tariffs on about \$200 billion in imports, while List 4A included 7.5% tariffs on \$120 billion in goods.

One suit argues the administration cannot expand tariffs to other Chinese imports "for reasons untethered to the unfair intellectual property policies and practices it originally investigated."

Companies filing suit include heavy truck manufacturer Volvo Group North America, U.S. auto parts retailer Pep Boys, clothing company Ralph Lauren, Sysco Corp, guitar manufacturer Gibson Brands, Lenovo's U.S. unit, Dole Packaged Foods, a unit of Itochu Corp and golf equipment manufacturer Callaway Golf Co.

Home Depot's suit noted it faces tariffs on bamboo flooring, cordless drills and many other Chinese-made products. Walgreen, a unit of the Walgreen Boots Alliance, said it is paying higher tariffs on products like "seasonal novelties; party, first aid, and office supplies; and household essentials."

Lighthizer's office did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

On Sept. 15, the World Trade Organization found the United States breached global trading rules by imposing multibillion-dollar tariffs in Trump's trade war with China.

Sri Lanka Seeks Fresh Currency Swap Facility

MUMBAI (Reuters) - Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa sought an additional currency swap facility and

deferment of debt payments from India during an online bilateral summit with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday, Indian officials said.

Sri Lanka owes about \$960 million to India and earlier this year India agreed to a \$400 million currency swap facility for Sri Lanka until November 2022.

"An additional request for a bilateral currency swap arrangement worth around \$1 billion by the Sri Lankan side remains under discussion," said the Indian foreign ministry in a statement.

Modi told his Sri Lankan counterpart that under the country's "Neighbourhood First" policy, India will continue to "give special priority to relations between the two countries", said the officials.

Sri Lanka, located off the southern tip of India, has become an arena of competing influence between India and China, which has built ports, power stations and highways as part of President Xi Jinping's signature "Belt and Road Initiative", designed to boost trade and transport links across Asia.

But the terms of some of these projects have drawn domestic criticism in Sri Lanka and opened the way for countries such as India, the United States and Japan to rebuild ties in the Indian Ocean country that lies near key shipping lanes.

Rajapaksa, who won a general election last year after promising to pull the country out of its deepest economic slump, has to service mounting external debt amidst the coronavirus pandemic.

He told Modi that the Sri Lankan government's policies will facilitate deeper economic and strategic cooperation between the two countries.

Japan August Factory Output Seen Rising

TOKYO (Dispatches) - Japan's factory output likely rose for a third straight month in August but at a slower pace, suggesting a recovery in manufacturing activity will be moderate, a Reuters poll showed.

Industrial output is expected to have risen 1.5% in August from the previous month, the poll of 17 economists showed. It had jumped a revised 8.7% in July, the fastest on record, as domestic and global demand began to slowly recover from coronavirus-induced slumps.

"We expect broad gains in the production, including electronic parts and devices, and transport machineries," said Yusuke Shimoda, senior economist at Japan Research Institute.

"But the level of recovery in the factory output will still be about a half of losses caused by the coronavirus outbreak."

A business survey released this week showed factory activity continued to contract in September amid subdued demand, but new orders were falling at a much slower pace and manufacturers were more confident in the outlook. The Reuters poll also found retail sales probably fell 3.5% in August from a year earlier, which would mark a sixth-straight month of decline, as fears of contracting the virus kept consumers at home.

The trade ministry will release both factory output and retail sales at 8:50 a.m. Japan time on Wednesday, September 30 (2350 GMT Tuesday). Analysts forecast the jobless rate edged up to 3.0% in August from 2.9% in the previous month and the jobs-to-applicants ratio, or availability of jobs, likely worsened to 1.05 last month from 1.08 in July.

"After the economic activity restarted from late May, some people are returning to work but the pace of recovery is slow," said Takeshi Minami, chief economist at Norinchukin Research Institute.

Deflationary pressures are expected to persist. Tokyo's core consumer price (CPI) index, which includes oil products but excludes fresh food prices, likely fell 0.3% in September from a year earlier, the same rate of decline seen in August, the poll showed.

Weak energy prices such as electricity and gas weighed on consumer prices, analysts said.

World Bank Approves \$450m to Support Pakistan's Transition to Renewable Energy



ISLAMABAD (Dispatches) - The World Bank has approved \$450 million in financing to support Pakistan's transition to clean energy as the country aims to reduce its reliance on fossil fuel.

The project will help shift to domestic clean resources by investing in renewable energy generation, including hydropower and solar, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province. The project area includes Upper Dir and Swat districts.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Hydropower and Renewable Energy Development Project will offer low-cost and low-carbon electricity and will support the economic development of communities near the hydropower and solar projects by creating jobs, and supporting infrastructure development and tourism activities.

"This project supports Pakistan's goal to become a low-carbon, renewable energy-reliant economy by 2030 and contributes to its national target in reducing greenhouse gas emissions to combat climate change," said Najy Benhassane, World Bank country director for Pakistan. "It will facilitate the expansion of renewable energy in KP by identifying and preparing solar and hydropower projects that are technically sound, environmentally and socially sustainable, and investment ready."

The project would push the country towards cleaner energy. To incentivize locals, the renewable energy project also includes "a comprehensive skills training program to build technical capacity in identifying investment opportunities, preparing projects, and mobilizing commercial financing," said Mohammad Saqib, project's task team leader. "In addition, by installing solar photovoltaic systems onto hydropower assets, production capacity is expected to rise and generate greater return on investments."

The total cost of the project is approximately \$727 million. The World Bank is lending \$450 million, which includes International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) loan of \$200 million with maturity time of 27 years and grace period of seven years, and International Development Association (IDA) credit of \$250 million with maturity terms of 30 years and five-year grace period.

Iranian Documentary To Be Screened in Japan

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iranian documentary ‘18 percent’ directed by Mostafa Shaban, has been subtitled in Japanese to be screened in the country on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the termination of Iraq’s imposed war on Iran.

The job has been done by the Embassy of the Republic of Iran in Japan in collaboration with the General Directorate of Cultural Cooperation and Affairs of Iranians Abroad at Islamic Culture and Communication Organization.

“18 Percent” is about the life of Ali Jalali Farahani, a survivor of chemical weapons who travels to Japan for medical treatment.



U.S. Tightens Exports to China’s Chipmaker SMIC

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The United States has imposed restrictions on exports to China’s biggest chip maker SMIC after concluding there is an “unacceptable risk” equipment supplied to it could be used for military purposes.

Suppliers of certain equipment to Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corporation 0981.HK will now have to apply for individual export licenses, according to a letter from the Commerce Department dated Friday and seen by Reuters.

The latest move marks a shift in U.S. policy from earlier this year, when applicants seeking “military end user” licenses to sell to SMIC were told by the Commerce Department that the licenses weren’t necessary, according to three people familiar with the matter.

SMIC said it had not received any official notice of the restrictions and said it has no ties with the Chinese military.

“SMIC reiterates that it manufactures semiconductors and provides services solely for civilian and commercial end-users and end-uses,” SMIC said.

“The Company has no relationship with the Chinese military and does not manufacture for any military end-users or end-uses.”

SMIC is the latest leading Chinese technology company to face U.S. trade restrictions related to national security issues or U.S. foreign policy efforts. Telecoms giant Huawei Technologies [HWT.UL] had its access to high-end chips curtailed by its addition to a Commerce Department blacklist known as the entity list.

SMIC’s new designation is not as severe as being blacklisted, which makes it difficult to get any export license approved.

The Pentagon earlier this month, Reuters was first to report, said it was working with other agencies to determine whether to blacklist SMIC for its purported links to the Chinese military.

U.S. companies including Lam Research LRCX.O, KLA Corp KLAC.O and Applied Materials AMAT.O, which supply chipmaking equipment, may now need to get licenses to ship certain goods to SMIC.

It is unclear which suppliers received the letter, but typically once the Commerce



Department comes to the conclusion that there is a risk of military use or diversion, it sends that information to the companies.

The Commerce Department’s Bureau of Industry and Security declined on Saturday to comment specifically on SMIC, but said it was “constantly monitoring and assessing any potential threats to U.S. national security and foreign policy interests”.

The administration has increasingly trained its focus on Chinese companies that bolster Beijing’s military. Last month, the United States blacklisted 24 Chinese companies and targeted people it said were part of construction and military actions in the South China Sea, its first such sanctions against Beijing over the disputed strategic waterway.

Nissan to Launch Slew of New Vehicles in China



BEIJING (Reuters) - Nissan Motor’s chief executive 7201.T said on Saturday he planned to launch a number of new vehicles in the growing Chinese market over the next five years, including electrical cars, that could help the struggling Japanese automaker return to profit.

“The recovery in the Chinese market has been very remarkable, and our key segments have returned to the previous year’s level if not slightly better,” CEO Makoto Uchida said at a press conference at the Beijing auto show via a video link from Japan. “I expect this rebound to continue, but we need to watch for signs of trouble,” he added.

Uchida and the company’s China boss, Shohei Yamazaki, said Nissan will launch nine new and re-designed electric models in the world’s biggest auto market by 2025, including plug-in electric vehicles and hybrid electric cars that charge with a gasoline engine.

Uchida’s remarks come as investors express concern about Japan’s second-largest carmaker, which has warned of a record \$4.5 billion loss this year as the pandemic hampers its turnaround.

Growth in China is a key part of Nissan’s effort to recover from rapid expansion that left it with dismal margins and an ageing portfolio that the automaker says is a result of a mismanagement by former boss Carlos Ghosn, who was arrested for financial misdeeds which he denies.

Nissan has pledged to cut 300 billion yen (2.23 billion pounds) from annual fixed costs and focus on each of the company’s three biggest markets: China, the United States and Japan.

Yet, while China’s automotive market continues to recover strongly, Nissan last month saw its business shrink 2.4% after showing modest growth every month since April. That sales contraction was in stark contrast to Japanese rivals Toyota and Honda, which have both seen rapid sales growth since the pandemic’s effects began easing in China over the summer.

In August, Toyota vehicles sales in China rose 27.2% from last year, while Honda’s grew 19.7%.

To bolster its finances, Nissan this month said it plans to issue \$8 billion in dollar-denominated bonds and is considering euro-denominated debt. The bond sale is its first dollar-denominated issuance since its tie-up with France’s Renault SA RENA.PA in 1999, a Nissan representative said.

A Nissan spokeswoman said some of that money would be used to repay other debt. “Although Nissan continues to have sufficient levels of liquidity, we are seeking to strengthen our liquidity position in order to ensure smooth implementation of our business transformation plan,” she said.

Bangladesh Bank Stresses Manpower Export

DHAKA (Dispatches) - Identifying overseas employment as a key to recovery of the country’s falling economy, the Bangladesh Bank in a report has said that manpower export is still facing risks due to uncertainties already affecting the global economy due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The BB in its April-June quarterly review on September 23 said that the government announced over Tk one lakh crore stimulus packages to tackle the economic fallout from the 66-day COVID-19 shutdown since March 26.

In addition to the timely implementation of the stimulus packages, manpower export would play a critical role in the recovery of the economic growth in the second half of 2020, and in 2021, said the report.

Experts observed that the government needed to be proactive to deal with the manpower-recruiting countries so that the record flow of remittance — \$18.21 billion in the 2019-20 fiscal year — from nearly one crore expatriates working abroad could be sustained in the coming fiscal years.

Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies general secretary Shameem Ahmed Chowdhury Noman said that almost no overseas jobs were created over the last five months.

Before the virus pandemic hit the country in March, Bangladesh was able to send only one lakh people to the country’s major manpower-recruiting destinations, mainly Middle-East countries, while another one lakh were ready to fly for their workplaces.

In recent years, seven lakh people on average sought overseas jobs annually with 85 per cent of them in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia alone.

It is now good news for the recruiting agencies under BAIRA after the manpower exports resumed to the KSA, said BAIRA general secretary.

He expected that the government would manage the COVID-19 pandemic in such a way that no negative impression was created about Bangladeshi workers among the manpower-recruiting nations.

In July Italy imposed a ban on arrivals from Bangladesh until October 5 this year amid a scandal that fake coronavirus certificates were issued by some private medical hospitals in the country.

Meanwhile, the job holders in the KSA have demonstrated in the capital demanding the availability of flights to that country.

The BB has also emphasised on the readymade garment exports for a quick recovery of the country’s economic growth that was only 5.2 per cent in 2019-2020 in place of the projected 8.2 per cent.

Former BB governor Salehuddin Ahmed said that the country mainly sent unskilled manpower to the overseas job destinations, which has always been a challenge.

Unskilled manpower would now be demanded less in the current situation, he said.

Only 13 lakh job seekers are employed in the oil-rich Arab countries, Malaysia and Singapore every year while 21 lakh youths become eligible for the job market.

But this year around 1,27,000 migrant workers returned home from different countries, mostly from the Middle-East ones, said expatriate welfare ministry additional secretary Md Shahidul Alam at a virtual discussion on September 19.

It is also apprehended that around 2-2.5 lakh migrants might return home in the next two months while more than 3 lakh would not be able to go abroad during the time.

China Needs to Step Up Global Financial Integration

SHANGHAI (Reuters) - China needs to further open its capital markets and financial industry to avoid being globally isolated, a senior foreign exchange regulator said on Saturday.

China will conform to international rules to promote further integration of its capital markets, and continue interest rate and exchange rate reforms in a steady and prudent manner, Lu Lei, deputy director of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE), said during an industry forum in Shanghai.

“China should use a higher level of opening to counter the risks of blockade and containment, and actively embrace, and integrate into the global financial system,” Lu said.

Beijing is accelerating financial market deregulation as intensifying Sino-U.S. tensions raise concerns about the risks that China decouples economically and technologically with the rest of the world.



To boost cross-border private equity investment, China is looking to revise rules for its private equity and overseas investment schemes, Lu said.

The Qualified Foreign Limited Partner, or QFLP, allows qualified foreign institutions to make private equity investments in China while the Qualified

Domestic Limited Partnership, or QDLP, allows foreign fund managers with awarded quotas to raise money in China for overseas investments.

Lu also vowed to increase exchange rate flexibility to cushion against volatility in the economy and balance of international payments.

China on Friday moved to further ease foreign access to its capital markets, officially combining two major inbound investment schemes and broadening the scope for foreign institutional investment.

Suppose Trump...

FROM PAGE 1

But we should note that Trump’s game drives forth which part of this issue with pretension and which part of it secretly with Europeans. The White House, based on the pressures, whose bases had been laid by Barack Obama’s government through sanctions and the JCPOA, was tempted to finish the job. So in 2018, it brought forth the so-called maximum pressures (Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) and Iran Sanction Act (ISA) which were the alternative of crippling sanctions) and reloaded magazine of the JCPOA with sanction bullets and fired it.

The most important issue in the past two years has been Europe’s trick and malignancy. Foreign Minister Mr. Zarif with all of his wishful thinking in the past has admitted that Europeans have violated 11 anti-sanctions of its obligations regarding the JCPOA. They unilaterally annulled the contracts and zeroed buying Iran oil in a way that their billion-dollars-trade with Iran has declined to only a few dozen million dollars. Even the Germans stonewalled providing Zarif’s plane with fuel. His story of complaining about impossibility to open a banking account in London is famous.

Now the condition is different. The U.S. has resorted to assassination and martyring Lieutenant General Qasem Soleimani and his comrades to confront Iran. Despite this fact that the UNSC has announced him the loser of the snapback case, it has announced it has triggered the snapback mechanism. Two import points are significant in the U.S. and Europe’s behavior. The U.S. says it has triggered the snapback mechanism but no sanction bullet has been left in its sanction gun any more to be implemented. In other words, the financial, banking and oil sanctions whose rails had been laid in the Obama Administration era in the form of CAATSA and ISA and been implemented in Trump Administration are beyond all the sanctions in the UNSC resolutions against Iran, and in fact Europe has already accompanied the U.S. practically.

In the past decade, there have always been disputes among U.S. politicians over how sanctions on Iran to be implemented. That sanctions, to have deeper effect for surrender of Iran, should be gradually increased to become more nettlesome or it is better to be implemented as a shock and immediately, we consider it a media game and in this puppet show, Europe has played the role of good man and protagonist.

Iranian nation is fully aware of full details of the big treason which was committed in the heat of the Green Sedition (2009 presidential election unrests) that even American newspaper Los Angeles Times unmasked this treason and wrote, “Representatives of some leaders of the Green Movement told The Obama Administration to intensify the crippling sanctions, and the sanctions should be repeatedly and shockingly in order to cripple Iran.”

So we can obviously see that the crippling sanctions which were proposed by the inside coup-organizers have been imposed since 2011 and they have not have any effect on the strong determination of the nation and their resistance.

Today the country should definitely make a decision that it will not continue any longer based on the text of the current JCPOA and if it is Joe Biden or presumably Trump to return to the JCPOA, this time its text should be drawn up and negotiated in a way to avoid any practical weaknesses like the one signed during Obama era against Iran, and the negotiating team will be formed by three branches of power.

Almost Entire Iran...

FROM PAGE 1

Lari said 4,059 patients are also in critical conditions caused by more severe infection.

The spokeswoman noted that 3,932,571 COVID-19 tests have been taken across the country so far.

She said the high-risk “red” zones include Tehran, Qom, Mazandaran, East Azarbaijan, Isfahan, Yazd, Ardabil, Khorasan Razavi, Khuzestan, Hamadan, West Azarbaijan, Bushehr, Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad, Alborz, Lorestan, Markazi, Ilam, South Khorasan, Kermanshah, North Khorasan, Semnan, Gilan, Zanjan, Qazvin, and Kerman provinces.

The “orange” zones also include Golestan, Hormozgan, Kurdistan, and Fars provinces, she added.



Rossi in Catalonia MotoGP Front Row

MADRID (Dispatches) - Valentino Rossi will start the Catalonia MotoGP from the front row of the grid after finishing third fastest in qualifying on Saturday, just hours after signing a deal to move to Yamaha's satellite team next season.

The 41-year-old, one of the greatest motorcyclists of all time, finished 0.331sec behind Franco Morbidelli at the Montmelo circuit near Barcelona as his future Yamaha-SRT teammate took his first ever MotoGP pole position.

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Van der Breggen Completes Worlds Double

ROME (Dispatches) - Dutch rider Anna van der Breggen won Saturday won the women's road race world title, to complete a double days after winning time-trial gold.

The reigning Olympic champion attacked 40km from the finish line, beating compatriot Annemiek van Vleuten and Italian Elisa Longo Borghini by 1min 20sec.

The 30-year-old Dutchwoman becomes the first woman to achieve the double in the same year since the French rider Jeannie Longo in 1995.

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SPORTS

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 28, 2020

Chelsea Fight Back To Draw; Man Utd Snatch Win

LONDON (Dispatches) - Free-spending Chelsea came from 3-0 down to salvage a 3-3 draw at newly-promoted West Brom, while Manchester United were rescued by Bruno Fernandes's 100th-minute penalty, awarded after the full-time whistle, to beat Brighton 3-2 on Saturday.

But it is Everton who are setting the early pace in the Premier League as they secured a third straight win in controversial circumstances, 2-1 at Crystal Palace.

Chelsea manager Frank Lampard handed the captain's armband to Thiago Silva on his Premier League debut, but the Brazilian had a nightmare first 45 minutes as the Blues' defensive deficiencies were easily exposed.

Callum Robinson pounced on errors from Marcos Alonso and Silva to fire twice beyond Willy Caballero, who replaced Kepa Arrizabalaga in the Chelsea goal.

Kyle Bartley then made it 3-0 to the Baggies, who had lost their opening two games back in the top flight. Chelsea have spent a reported £220 million (\$280 million) to try and close the gap to Liverpool and Manchester City in the title race and even a spirited second-half fightback, which takes them to just four points from their first three games, could not hide the embarrassment of his side's defending for Lampard.

"It's two points lost," said Lampard. "You can have as many meetings as you want, but if you make clear mistakes, you give yourself a mountain to climb."

Mason Mount got the comeback started to a swerving long-range effort.

Substitute Callum Hudson-Odoi then swept home 20 minutes from time after a neat one-two

with Kai Havertz. And Tammy Abraham secured a point in stoppage time when he rolled in the rebound after Sam Johnstone had parried Mount's initial effort.

United bounced back from their 3-1 home defeat to Crystal Palace last weekend, but had a lot of fortune on their side after being outplayed by Brighton. The Seagulls hit the woodwork five times and thought they had earned a point



themselves five minutes into stoppage time when Solly March headed home at the back post.

However, there was just enough time for United to mount another attack and Neal Maupay raised his arm to block Harry Maguire's header.

Referee Chris Kavanagh initially blew for full-time, but then awarded a penalty after consulting the pitchside monitor and Fernandes confidently converted.

"We got away with one. Maybe one point we deserved, we didn't deserve more," admitted United boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer. After Leandro Trossard hit both posts with shots from outside the box, while Adam Webster's looping header came back off the crossbar, Brighton finally got their reward when Fernandes clipped Tariq Lamptey inside the box and Maupay cheekily chipped his penalty down the middle of the goal.

Graham Potter's men undid their good work three minutes later when Lewis Dunk's own goal brought United level before the visitors scored a stunning second through Marcus Rashford early in the second-half.

And even once they did level, Brighton were denied a point in a chaotic finale.

Everton sit top of the embryonic table as they won the battle of two sides who started the day with a perfect record, thanks to a controversial penalty on their own.

James Rodriguez again starred for Carlo Ancelotti's men and played his part in Everton's opener, converted by Dominic Calvert-Lewin for already his fifth Premier League goal of the season.

Palace quickly responded through Cheikhou Kouyate, but the game was decided by a VAR review five minutes before half-time. After consulting the pitchside monitor, Kevin Friend pointed to the spot for handball by Joel Ward after he was struck on the arm by Lucas Digne's header and Richarlison converted the spot-kick.

Mick Schumacher Boosts F1 Prospects With Sochi Win

SOCHI (Dispatches) - Mick Schumacher, the son of seven-time world champion Michael Schumacher, improved his hopes of landing a seat in Formula One next year when he won the Sochi Formula Two feature race from third on the grid on Saturday.

His victory extended his lead in the F2 drivers' title race ahead of Callum Hlott and endorsed his position as a contender to claim a seat with Alfa Romeo next season.

The Swiss-based team is expected to give Schumacher a practice run in one of their cars at next month's Eifel Grand Prix at the Nurburgring before confirming its 2021 line-up.

If he impresses he could be in the running for Antonio Giovinazzi's seat.

The Italian's future remains undecided and he may have to compete not only with Schumacher but several other Ferrari academy proteges as well as the experienced Mexican Sergio Perez and German Nico Hulkenberg.

Whoever is picked will be teammate to Kimi Raikkonen. The 40-year-old 2007 champion is reported to have agreed to re-sign for another season by Swiss news outlet Blick on Saturday.

Svitolina Heads To Paris After Winning In Strasbourg

STRASBOURG (AFP) - World number five Elina Svitolina will head to Roland Garros buoyed by success after coming through a tough three-set final against Elena Rybakina in Strasbourg on Saturday.

Svitolina won 6-4, 1-6, 6-2 but she had to contend not only with some feisty competition from the young Kazakh, who came back strongly in the second set, but some grim conditions.

The match, which was delayed by rain, was played partly in drizzle and a temperature close to 10 degrees Celsius, something which affected both players over the course of a contest that lasted seven minutes shy of two hours.

"It was not easy, but it's the same for everyone and you have to adjust quickly," said Svitolina after claiming her 15th WTA title.

"Normally the tournaments are playing in really hot conditions. We were happy to finish today. In the end we got lucky to play."

The 26-year-old Ukrainian, who will be third seed at the French Open, took first blood as she closed out the first set in 39 minutes.

But Rybakina hit back strongly, the 21-year-old blasting Svitolina off the court, unsettling her with the power of her strokes. She raised her first-serve percentage to 70 and made only eight unforced errors in the set.

Rybakina had Svitolina at 0-40 on the Ukrainian's opening service game of the third set but could not see out the break as Svitolina saved four successive break points.

Rossi Moves to Yamaha's Satellite Team

BARCELONA (Dispatches) - Valentino Rossi has signed a one-year contract extension with Yamaha which will see him move to the manufacturer's satellite team for the 2021 season, the MotoGP outfit announced on Saturday.

"Yamaha Motor Co. Ltd. is pleased to announce that it has signed a one-year renewal agreement with Grand Prix racing legend Valentino Rossi," Yamaha said in a statement.

Koeman Has No Doubts About Messi

MADRID (Dispatches) - Barcelona coach Ronald Koeman has said he has no concerns about Lionel Messi ahead of their first La Liga game of the season on Sunday, after the Argentinian took another swipe at the club over the departure of Luis Suarez.

Koeman was also keen to point out it was not solely his decision to let Suarez join Atletico Madrid, with the Dutchman insisting he is not the "bad guy in the movie".

Messi criticised how Suarez was pushed out as Barca try to reduce their wage bill, saying "you deserved a goodbye for what you are" before adding: "But at this point nothing surprises me anymore".

Barcelona play Villarreal at Camp Nou and Messi is expected to start, having reintegrated with the squad since claiming he was denied a transfer this summer.

Koeman said in a press conference on Saturday he was not worried about Messi, despite his captain's latest show of frustration.

"It is normal for a player to be a bit sad when a friend of theirs leaves after the years that they have had together, it is part of football," said Koeman.

"But the most important thing for me is how he has been. In training and in games, I think Leo has been an example for everyone, in his commitment to the club and to the team. I have no doubts about Leo in this regard."

Suarez scored 198 goals for Barcelona to become their third highest goalscorer in history but the 33-year-old was deemed expendable after the team's disastrous end to last season.

Koeman was reported to have held a direct and short telephone conversation with Suarez about his future but Barca's new coach claims the decision was not only his.

Ramos Penalty Snatches Win for Real Madrid

MADRID (Dispatches) - Sergio Ramos scored a late penalty as Real Madrid came from behind to scrape a 3-2 win against 10-man Real Betis, their first La Liga victory of the season.

Betis were ahead at half-time after two goals in two minutes from Aissa Mandi and William Carvalho overturned Fede Valverde's opener for the reigning champions.

But Betis defender Emerson, who is on loan from Barcelona, endured a nightmare start to the second half by scoring an own-goal and then being sent off for knocking over Luka Jovic after the striker had been sent clear. VAR again intervened in Madrid's favour in the 82nd minute as Marc Bartra was adjudged to have cleared with his arm, leaving Ramos to chip in the winning penalty.

Betis were fuming at referee Ricard de Burgos at full-time and while the red card seemed fair, they were unlucky to concede the penalty, with Bartra seemingly nudged into the ball by Madrid's Borja Mayoral. Madrid, though, breathed a sigh of relief, their opening win secured having kicked off the season with a goalless draw away at Real Sociedad last weekend.

"I'm not getting into the referees," said Zidane. "We suffered of course but in the end we got the three points." Ramos converting from the spot felt familiar after his three penalties during Madrid's run to the title last term but this was an uncharacteristically sloppy defensive display from Zinedine Zidane's side. It was the first time they had conceded twice in the first half of a league match since Zidane returned as coach 18 months ago and it would have cost them had their opponents been less generous.



Djokovic Insists Won't Make Same New York Mistake Twice

PARIS (Dispatches) - Novak Djokovic insisted Saturday there will be no repeat of his sensational U.S. Open disqualification at Roland Garros as the world number one promised: "I won't make the same mistake twice".

Djokovic was defaulted in New York when a ball he swiped away in frustration struck a line judge.

As well as attracting wide-ranging condemnation for his perceived petulance, the incident also went down in the record books as a defeat -- the Serb's only loss in 32 matches in 2020. "Well, obviously I am going to be extra careful of hitting a tennis ball around the court," said Djokovic.

"That's something that is staying in my mind after what happened in New York. It's going to stay there for a long time.

"Of course, I will make sure I don't make the same mistake twice."

The aftermath of his New York brain fade hasn't, however, slowed down the Djokovic juggernaut. He captured the Italian Open in Rome on Monday for a record 36th Masters title, breaking out of a tie with Rafael Nadal.

It was also his fourth trophy in five events this year.

He also took his total weeks spent in the world number one ranking to 287, passing Pete Sampras on the all-time list and with just Roger Federer on 310 ahead of him. "I really want to be my best version as a player, as a human being on the court, and win a tennis match," added Djokovic.

