

Iran's Health Ministry Spokeswoman Sima Sadat Lari Said on Friday That Some 187 More Iranians Have Died From Coronavirus Disease Over the Past 24 Hours as the Death Toll Mounted to 26,567

IRAN NEWS

Presiden Hassan Rouhani Called On the Chairmen of the National Task Force for Fighting Coronavirus to Broader Monitoring, Imposing Penalties to Ensure Observance of Health Protocols

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Medical Ban on Kids Inconsistent With West's Human Rights Posture

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - The head of the Iranian Judiciary's High Council for Human Rights has censured the Western states for pretending to be advocates of human rights while blocking Tehran's imports of medicine meant for child patients.

Ali Baqeri-Kani made the remarks during a visit to a medical center for treatment of children suffering from epidermolysis bullosa or EB on Thursday.

He said the European governments "do not even adhere to the rules and regulations of war, because in wartime medical mechanisms are immune from violation."

The Iranian official said the Europeans who claim to be advocates of human rights prevent the delivery of medical supplies to the Iranian patients while supporting terrorist groups and acts of terror.

"These governments that do not allow oppressed children to have access to medicine provide facilities and a haven to executioners, butchers and terrorists, while arrogantly claiming to be defenders of human rights," he said.

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Normalization Deals Will Lead to Violation of Palestinians Rights

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iranian ambassador Baqaei Hamaneh criticized the UAE and Bahrain for their recent move to normalize diplomatic relations with the Israeli regime and said: "This will destroy the rights of the oppressed Palestinian people while strengthening the sense of immunity of the occupiers of al-Quds."

The ambassador warned that the organized repression of the Palestinians by the Zionist regime has become more brutal as the bombing and siege of Gaza continues, and that ethnic cleansing, occupation, and the destruction of homes in the Palestinian territories have become a routine.

"International law does not matter to the Israeli repressors who continue to occupy the Golan Heights and the Lebanese territories," Hamaneh said.

He stressed that the crimes of the Zionist regime will end only when the occupation ends and the rights of the Palestinians are restored, noting that the governments have a moral and legal duty to hold the Israeli regime accountable for the most serious crimes to the international community.

Tehran Ready to Cooperate With Beijing on COVID-19 Vaccine



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - President Hassan Rouhani felicitated the Chinese National Day and expressed readiness for increased cooperation with Beijing, especially in producing the COVID-19 vaccine.

In a message on Wednesday to Chinese President Xi Jinping, Rouhani expressed congratulations to the Chinese people and government on the occasion of the National Day.

Cultural commonalities, long history of bilateral ties, and common viewpoint of the two countries towards international developments, that arises from the determination to confront unilateralism, have paved the way for the expansion of bilateral ties in different fields, he said.

"I am sure that the conclusion and signing of the 25-year comprehensive strategic cooperation plan between the two countries will be a giant step in proceeding common interests and will be in line with international peace and security and also confronting unilateralism," he said.

Despite all its problems, the COVID-19 outbreak prepared ground for showcasing China's power in helping the fate of the humankind, said Rouhani.

"Just as the two countries were standing side by side in the fight against the disease since its outbreak, I expressed my country's readiness to cooperate with China in producing COVID-19 vaccine and I hope that the ground for cooperation in this field would be paved with the direction of your Excellency," he added.

He also wished Xi Jinping and the Chinese people health and success.

Earlier First Vice President Eshaq Jahangiri expressed congratulations to the Chinese officials and people on the occasion of the 71st anniversary of the establishment of Modern China which is celebrated on October 1.

On the occasion of the National day, Jahangiri sent two separate messages to Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang and Vice President Wang Qishan.

He pointed to the history of ties between the two countries and cultural commonalities, noting that the common stance and view of Tehran and Beijing towards some international developments and the both countries' determination to fight unilateralism have created a firm ground for strategic and comprehensive cooperation between Iran and China.

Jahangiri added that the signing of the 25-year comprehensive agreement will open a new chapter of ties between the countries.

He also said that cooperation between Iran and China in the fight against COVID-19 has had great results and has drawn a bright horizon in fighting the outbreak.

He wished the Chinese officials health and success and the people of China prosperity and felicity.

Chabahar-Gwadar Connection Promises Prosperity in Region

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran's ambassador to Pakistan denied any competition between the ports of the two neighboring countries and stressed that the connection and cooperation between Chabahar and Gwadar will strengthen bilateral trade and prosperity in the region.

Mohammad Ali Hosseini expressed in an interview with the economic newspaper 'Business Recorder' of Pakistan that the connection of Iran's Chabahar and Pakistani Gwadar ports promises prosperity in the region.

He added that Iran never considers Chabahar and Gwadar as rivals, but these ports are complementary and a platform for strengthening joint trade relations and regional ties.

Hosseini stated that Chabahar and Gwadar are two important ports of Iran and Pakistan that if their scope of activity expands, they can play a key role in regional development and prosperity.

Referring to Iran's plans in Chabahar and the development of the port, as well as Pakistan's efforts to develop the infrastructure of Gwadar port for commercial purposes, the ambassador added: "Some parties are trying to make Chabahar and Gwadar ports as rivals, while we never believe so; rather, we consider these two ports as complementary to each other."

The Iranian ambassador to Pakistan noted that the Chabahar-Gwadar railway connection could provide a better environment for using the capacities of these ports. In addition, the Islamic Republic of Iran has announced its readiness to supply electricity to the Pakistani port of Gwadar.

He stressed: "In fact, the Islamic Republic of Iran considers the progress and security of Pakistan as its own progress and security and believes that the development of the ports of the two countries will increase the volume of bilateral trade and development in the region."

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ViewPoint

By: Hamid Reza Naghashian

Oil, OPEC, Russia and the U.S.

With beginning of the autumn, the oil market atmosphere is tending toward boom. The oil producing countries typically prep themselves for production of bigger volume of oil production. Shares of oil companies due to the rise in the production volume inclines toward moving upward, and in the end, with the start of cold, the oil consumption rises high and higher.

In the current condition, Iran is deprived of selling its crude oil and of course Saudi Arabia and Russia have taken the share of Iran's oil sale in the markets. The more the climate between China and the U.S. gets colder due to President Donald Trump's stance, Kremlin is optimistic that it can play a constructive role in reaching a deal for stability in the global oil markets in order that it likely would find a diplomatic opening for improving ties with the U.S.

On the other hand, of course Russia is fully committed to its agreement with Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) members for reducing its oil production from 11m bpd to 10m bpd. Of course we should take this point into consideration that long term reduction of production may create operational and geographical problems for some of oil producers of Russia like its major oil and gas producer company (Rosneft). Russia is after lowering some of the U.S. sanctions especially against Rosneft that it is not active in Venezuela any longer.

Technical challenges in the oil sector of Russia may force Moscow probably to go after having access to the capital market for its oil sector and to get assistance from the U.S. industry and technology, but it is still unclear that how a political progress can be achieved in the complicated bilateral relations of the U.S. and Russia.

Beside consequences of investment and probable damages on Russia's equipment and oil fields, continuity of production may cause marketing woes for Russian companies. Currently and in the heat of fall in demand for oil due to the Coronavirus pandemic, Russia's crude oil export is facing the slump in demand.

Statistical reports show that Russia currently has some 200,000 active oil well which are more than in any crude oil producing countries. In comparison to the low cost of oil production in Saudi Arabia, Russia's hydrodynamic methods (like horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing) especially in the old wells of the country needs more workforces and investment.

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Trump's Decisions Led To Int'l Community Opposition Against U.S.

TEHRAN (IP) - Foreign Ministry Spokesman said that the U.S. President's decision to reimpose UN sanctions against the Iranian nation has led to a unified international opposition against the US.

Saeed Khatibzadeh, the Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman in an interview called the European Countries' measures towards the U.S. demand to reimpose UN sanctions against Iran "opposition to the U.S." than a "support for Iran" in JCPOA and said: "The opposition of these 13 European countries showed the U.S. Isolation in international society." Khatibzadeh referred to the U.S. persistence demand to reimpose the lifted sanctions against Iran "an act out of desperation" and affirmed that the U.S. received a big "NO" and became more "isolated".

The spokesman for the Iranian foreign affairs emphasized that Iran's steps to reduce its commitments to the 2015 Nuclear deal are in the framework of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), signed by the United Nations and also in response to Europe's incapability to meet the Iranian needs in the deal. Khatibzadeh considered restoring the sanctions and maximum pressure by the U.S. inconsistent with the JCPOA and also an illegal and anti-human rights' action.

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President Felicitates Nigeria on Independence Day

TEHRAN (MNA) – President Hassan Rouhani congratulated the anniversary of Nigeria's independence from Britain, calling for increased cooperation with the African country.

In a message to his Nigerian counterpart Muhammadu Buhari on Thursday, Rouhani congratulated the African government and nation on the 60th anniversary of its independence. He also hoped for the promotion of cooperation between Tehran and Abuja in the bilateral, regional and international fields considering the ample opportunities for political, economic and parliamentary interaction.

Hundredfold Increase Of Knowledge-Based Firms in 7 Years

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - President Hassan Rouhani said on Thursday that the number of knowledge-based companies has increased a hundredfold since seven years ago.

He made the remarks in a video-conference ceremony held to inaugurate a number of national scientific and technology projects in Tehran, Alborz and Markazi provinces. He said that the projects will help the scientific elevation of the country.

The production line of products taken from plasma, production line of HPV vaccine, the production line for raw material of Sertraline medicine, and production lines of Biophosphate Biorun, hybrid seeds of beetroot, cucumber, and tomatoes, were among the projects opened by the President.

He called on knowledge-based companies to produce the pharmaceutical raw materials, some of which need to be imported from other countries.

Rouhani said that if about \$1.4 billion dollars of raw materials are imported now, \$400 million of that can be domestically produced.



The president inaugurated several national projects through video conference.

Thanking Vice-President for Science and Technology Sourena Sattari and other officials that made indefatigable efforts in the field, Rouhani said it is very important the educated young generation have the possibility to be active in the field of their expertise.

Regarding medicines, he said it is very important to be able to produce medicines, and hoped that Iran would be able to export the vaccine for cervical cancer.

He added that the knowledge enterprises can try to produce the pharmaceutical raw materials, some of which need to be imported from other countries.

Referring to Sattari's remarks, he said if about \$1.4 billion dollars of raw materials are imported now, \$400 million of that can be domestically produced.

Iran Mocks Netanyahu's 'Puppet Show' at UNGA

TEHRAN (IFP) - Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran Saeed Khatibzadeh has denounced the Israeli prime minister's speech at the UN General Assembly as a 'ridiculous show' aimed at deceiving public opinion, saying the Zionist regime is the 'greatest threat to world peace'.

Asked by reporters about Benjamin Netanyahu's speech at the UN General Assembly, Khatibzadeh described his remarks as a new act in a series of puppet shows that originate from Netanyahu's conspiratorial mind and from the counter-intelligence campaign run by the Zionist regime's espionage services.

"The prime minister of the fake, usurping and child-murdering Zionist regime continues to tell lies by taking the podium at international circles, and is trying to deceive public opinion and the global circles with ridiculous shows in order to prevent trial of the regime's criminal leaders at the international courts," Khatibzadeh said.

The Zionist regime's nature is based on occupation, deception and racism, the Iranian diplomat added, slamming the Zionist regime as the greatest global threat to peace and security given its stockpile of hundreds of nuclear warheads.

His comments came after Netanyahu reiterated opposition to the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, accusing Tehran of violating the nuclear restrictions.

The Israeli leader also claimed in his UN speech that Tehran will have enough enriched uranium in a few months for two nuclear bombs.

Increasing Coronavirus Cases in Tehran Worrying

TEHRAN (IP) - Iran's Interior Minister said that the increasing number of coronavirus cases in Tehran is worrying and the infections are increasing.

On the sideline of the social meeting on COVID-19, Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli, Iran's Interior Minister told Iran Press that Tehran is the center of most of the jobs and social and economic activities; therefore, observing hygienic protocols must be intensified.

It is expected that all people follow and implement health protocols seriously, he noted.

Referring to how to hold Muharram ceremonies (Imam Hossein's martyrdom rituals) based on hygienic protocols and social distancing plan, he added that all of these ceremonies can be held by observing health protocols and it needs mourners' close cooperation with the Health Ministry.

Holding the Muharram rituals perfectly based on the health protocols will show Iranians beliefs, customs, responsibilities, and regulations, stated the Minister.

Referring to how to resume education during the COVID-19 pandemic, he added that by dividing the country into White, Yellow, and Red zones, the Education Ministry can resume its process.

Social and Disciplinary meeting on COVID-19 was held with the presence of Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli, Education Minister Mohsen Haji Mirzaei, and other related officials at Ministry of Interior on Wednesday.

Despite COVID-19 Outbreak, Iran Counters Narcotics

TEHRAN (IP)- Discoveries of narcotics in Iran mounted to 565,000 kilograms, which has increased by 35% compared to last year, Iranian deputy police chief for combating drugs noted.

Majid Karimi highlighted that in Afghanistan, amphetamine and narcotics production has increased, which are distributed by ships around the world.

Speaking at the Asia-Pacific Counter-Narcotics Police Chiefs Meeting, he added that the Islamic Republic of Iran had discovered 90% of opium, 48% morphine, and 28% heroin of the world.

"In this meeting, the effect of COVID-19 on the drug supply chain and drug trafficking was discussed. It is said that drug trafficking has reduced, and the trafficking of cocaine via land routes has increased," he highlighted.

The Asia-Pacific Counter-Narcotics Police Chiefs Meeting opened today in Tehran via video conference by focusing on counter-narcotics.

"The meeting was headed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to discuss situations in various countries, including Iran's anti-narcotic measures," the official said.

Another meeting will be held on 2nd October from 8 am to 5 pm to present countries' reports to take action against narcotics, Karimi underlined. 207

U.S. Must Withdraw From Syrian Territory

TEHRAN (MNA) – Foreign Minister's Senior Assistant for Special Political Affairs Ali Asghar Khaji said that the U.S. must leave Syria and further emphasized the fight against terrorism in the Syrian territory.

He made the remarks in a phone talk with Japan's Special Coordinator for Syria Akira Endo on Wednesday.

Both sides conferred on recent developments in Syria, including the meeting of the Constitutional Committee, the Astana Peace Process, the situation in Idlib and east of the Euphrates, as well as the humanitarian situation in the country.

Referring to the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the political settlement of the Syrian crisis, Khaji urged foreign countries not to interfere in the

process of Syrian-Syrian dialogue which is within the framework of the Constitutional Committee.

Khaji further condemned the illegal presence of the US in Syria and its efforts to plunder the country's oil reserves as well as supporting terrorist groups and stressed the need for the US withdrawal from the Syrian territory.

He also welcomed the expansion of relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Japan in the region and called for the continuation of Japanese humanitarian aid to Syria.

Akira Endo, for his part, emphasized the significance of Iran's role in resolving the Syrian crisis and praised the efforts of the guarantors of the Astana Peace Process.

Zarif Holds Talks With Dutch, Austrian Counterparts

TEHRAN (IFP) - Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has discussed a whole range of issues with his opposite numbers from the Netherlands and Austria.

In separate phone conversations with Dutch Foreign Minister Stef Blok and his Austrian counterpart Alexander Schallenberg on Thursday, the top Iranian diplomat discussed with them issues related to mutual relations, especially in the consular domain, measures adopted by countries in fighting the coronavirus pandemic, the latest developments pertinent to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) as well as the situation in the region.

Among the issues which came up for discussion during Zarif's phone talks with his Austrian counterpart were the developments in the Nagorno-Karabakh region. The two sides expressed concern over the recent flare-up of hostilities between Armenia and the Azerbaijan Republic over that region.

Tehran, Beijing to Accelerate Developing Ties

BEIJING (IRNA) - Iranian Ambassador to China Mohammad Keshavarzzadeh congratulated Mid-Autumn Festival and National Day of the People's Republic of China, saying after defeating COVID-19, China has resumed economic activities and promotion of ties with Iran will be accelerated.

In his Twitter message, Keshavarzzadeh said "we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of Iran-China diplomatic ties greater next year".

Earlier on Thursday, President Hassan Rouhani sent a congratulatory message to the Chinese people on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the People's Republic of China.

National Day, officially the National Day of the People's Republic of China, is a public holiday in China

celebrated annually on October 1 as the national day of the People's Republic of China, commemorating the formal establishment of the People's Republic of China on October 1, 1949.

NASA Invites Iran to Join Online Observation of Moon

TEHRAN (IFP) - The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has once again invited Iran to observe the moon online.

The Tehran Planetarium known as the Mina Dome measured up to all standards in the global observation of the moon last year. This year, too, the scientific centre has been put on the club of online observers of the Moon upon NASA's official invitation, and will be one of standard scientific centres for observing the celestial body.

This global event takes place from September 26 to October 3 of 2020. As planned, the observation of the Moon took place at the Min Dome on the 26th and 29th of September.

Global Registration of Uraman Is Underway

TEHRAN (IP) - On the sidelines of the inauguration ceremony of Uraman photo exhibition, Hojatollah Ayoubi in an exclusive interview with Iran Press said that the results of the efforts to register Uraman globally will be released soon.

Ayoubi went on to say that Uraman is a huge area, and all cultures, celebrations, and nature of these areas will be registered together.

"Since every country is able to register only one case in the World List every year so cultural heritage organization decided to register a tourist hub instead of a building," the official added.

"This is a big event through which Kermanshah and Kordestan provinces will be linked to Iraq," he highlighted.

Ayoubi concluded that Global registration leads to the preservation and attracting tourists.

Uramanat as a tourist hub includes 300 villages. The area itself is 100,000 km and the area around it is 300,000 km, which has a total area of 400,000 km and is spread in the two provinces of Kermanshah and Kurdistan in western Iran.

People Participation in Economic Field Essential

MAZANDARAN (IP) - The Speaker of Iran's Parliament stated: "In the field of economy, we need the participation of the people and managerial cohesion, which we must pay close attention to, and we need to separate missions and programs at different levels."

Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, the Speaker of Iran's Parliament, expressed this morning in a meeting to review the issues of Mazandaran province, which was held in the presence of members of the assembly of representatives of Mazandaran and other officials: "Our most important task is to have a pathology of the serious problems of the province."

"In making decisions, we must pay attention to the fate of the people with the aim of empowering them."

The speaker added that the parliament must pave the way and implement policies properly, and implement the foundations for proper governance along with monitoring.

"We must refrain from interfering in the executive work, the law has a definition for the executive branch, and those in charge must be responsible to the parliament and its members," stressed Qalibaf.

The Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly pointed out: "In the field of economy, we need the participation of the people."

"Initially, we need a managerial cohesion that we must pay close attention to, and we also need to separate missions and programs at different levels."

Official Warns Against Presence Of Takfiri Terrorists in Karabakh

TEHRAN (P) - The Special Aide to the Speaker of Iran's Parliament for International Affairs, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian stated that the ongoing tension and presence of takfiri terrorists in Karabakh threaten peace and security.

Amir-Abdollahian said in a tweet on Friday that the only solutions to the Karabakh conflict are respecting territorial integrity, ending escalation, and political talks.

The Iranian official also emphasized that safeguarding the Iranian borders' security is Tehran's redline.

The Republic of Azerbaijan and Armenia disagree on the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

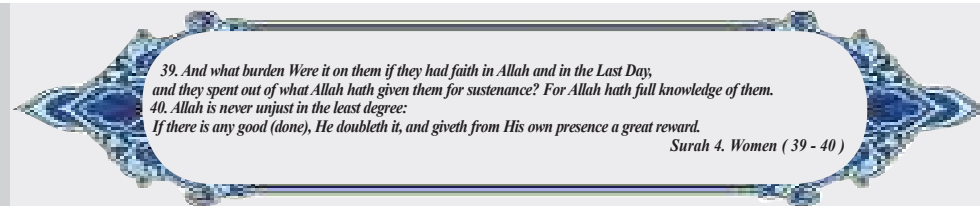
The two countries' dispute over the Nagorno-Karabakh region, in which some foreign interventions have escalated tensions, began in 1988 and led to a military conflict in 1991.

The new round of clashes began last Sunday with both sides opening fire, and a number have been killed or wounded so far.



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	11:53
■ Evening (Maghreb)	18:03
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:38
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:02



Iran Ready to Connect Electricity Grid With Europe

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian said on Thursday that Iran's energy infrastructure in the oil, gas and electricity sectors can be a good platform for transfer of energy to Europe.

Addressing a virtual meeting dubbed 'Europe-Caspian' held in Berlin to study issues related to the development of economic cooperation, especially energy, between the countries of the Caspian Sea region, he added that Iran with its huge energy resources and having skilled manpower and facilities in the field of energy can pave the ground for the transit of goods from the Caspian Sea littoral states and prosperity of international transport corridors, as well as energy corridors, especially electricity transmission corridor.

"In order to help promote communications of landlocked neighbors with international markets, we have created a huge transit infrastructure in our country and have demonstrated in practice our commitment to regional development and peace and stability," Ardakanian said.

He pointed out that having a major percentage of proven oil and gas resources in the world, regional states need to strengthen relations in a bid to regulate production



and export policies of these huge resources and potentially play a role in determining the price and supply of these resources worldwide.

"We are ready to connect Iran's electricity network, as the largest power generation power in the Middle East, with European countries and to provide the ground for exchange, especially the export of electricity as a green energy, with Europe," Ardakanian added.

Given the growing regional and global energy needs and the insufficient investment in the field, as well as Europe's increasing needs, this area can become a sustainable area of cooperation, he noted.

Ardakanian also said that by investing in energy production in Iran, Europe can meet part of its future energy needs on a sustainable basis.

Monetary Base Expanded by 5.4 in H1 Fiscal Year

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Governor Abdolnasser Hemmati says that the country's monetary base expansion in the first half of the current calendar year was a modest one as he dismisses claims the lender used extra finances to fund imports based on an official rial price of 42,000 against the U.S. dollar.

Hemmati said on Thursday that the balance of monetary base, or the amount of cash in circulation and deposits at the CBI, grew only by 5.4 percent in the

six months to September 21 compared to the end of the year to March 20, 2020.

"Restricted growth in the monetary base in a sign the CBI has insisted on controlling the growth of powerful money in the society," Hemmati said.

The governor said M2 Money supply had also expanded by 15.5 percent in the first half of the fiscal year compared to March.

He said the figures were based on initial reports by the

Economic Statistics Department of the CBI.

The announcement comes despite a recent report by the Iranian parliament suggesting that the CBI has been using extra reserves to fund imports of staples and medicines based on an official currency price which is much lower than a current price tag of 300,000 for the rial against the US dollar.

The Iranian parliament's research center said in the report published on Wednesday that the CBI had injected around \$3.3 billion from its reserves to fund the government scheme for imports.

The report said the injection, caused by extremely low sales of crude earlier this year because of US sanctions and the coronavirus pandemic, had caused the monetary base to expand by 15 percent or nearly 500 trillion rials (nearly \$1.7 billion).

Belgrade to Have Special Economic Ties With Tehran



BELGRADE (IRNA) - The head of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Vojvodina Province, northern Serbia, said in a meeting with the Iranian ambassador to Belgrade that his country is ready to broaden economic cooperation with Iran.

During the meeting, Boško Vučurević told Iranian Ambassador Rashid Hassanpour that the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Vojvodina is a part of the unified Serbia's chamber of commerce and is ready to have economic cooperation with Iran.

Saying that their main duty is to introduce and connect companies to each other, he said they have the ability to cooperate in several fields, including food, seeds, and informatics, which are related to agriculture.

Vojvodina is an agricultural province of Serbia.

Hassanpour said in the meeting that definitely the meeting will open new doors for cooperation between the two countries.

Also, in another meeting on Tuesday, Miloš Vučević, the mayor of the provincial capital Novi Sad, told the Iranian diplomat that there are no restrictions for cooperation with Iran and that constant negotiations can provide means for expanding economic and cultural ties.

He added that the doors of Novi Sad are open to Iran for cooperation in culture, art, tourism, higher education, and economy.

Pharma Companies Unveil 3 Key Biotechnology Drugs

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Vice-President for Science and Technology Sorena Sattari is seen in this October 1, 2020 photo while briefing Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on latest developments in the field of biotechnology in the country.

Iran has cemented its growing success in the field of biotechnology as new products are unveiled to help the country cut its costly imports.

President Hassan Rouhani used a video conference call on Thursday to supervise the launch of three new drugs, some of them key to the country's efforts to reach self-sufficiency in the pharmaceutical sector.

The official IRNA news agency said that the biotech products included treatments based on blood plasma, namely the human serum albumin (HAS) and Intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG), developed and commercialized by Medvac, a biopharma company based near Tehran in Karaj.

Before the development of the blood products, Iran had been forced to pay nearly 60 million euros each year to pharma companies in Germany and Austria to have blood plasma collected in Iran refined and turned into HAS and IVIG vials. The drugs are used in treating complicated blood conditions.

Another Iranian firm has unveiled an MS drug which rivals a patented medication produced by Israelis.

An Iranian-made vaccine used for treatment of human papillomavirus (HPV) was also unveiled on Thursday. The human vaccine, developed by Noyan Biopharma, will rival Gardasil of Merck & Co which is used on a massive scale around the world to prevent cervical cancer.

Another biotech company in the city of Saveh, around 120 kilometers to the southwest of the capital Tehran, announced it had developed the active pharmaceutical ingredient used to manufacture sertraline, a generic anti-depressant, said he report by IRNA.

KOGPC Realizes Production Plan in H1

TEHRAN (Shana) -- The CEO of Karoun Oil and Gas Production Company (KOGPC) announced the realization of 101% of the company's crude oil production plan in the first half of the current calendar year, which began on March 21.



According to the National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC), Gholamreza Mofidi said his company's output exceeded its planned production during the period despite the difficulties caused by the sanctions and while observing environmental and safety requirements.

He added: "By carrying out repair measures and intensifying control procedures, another valuable achievement was achieved in collecting associated petroleum gases, and the average amount of gas sent to the flare stacks of Karoun Company in the first half of this year decreased by 80% compared to the same period last year to reach less than 3 million cubic feet per day."

Phase 14 of SPGF to Become Operational by Mid-2021

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Phase 14 of the South Pars Gas Field will be opened by the end of the next summer, the gas field's project manager said.



Iranian economy has changed tracks from oil to gas in the past few years, said Mohammad-Mahdi Tavassolipour.

Tavassolipour said that Phase 14 is located in the northern part of the gas field, and was prioritized after phases 13, 22, 23, and 24.

Inasmuch as the SPGF is a joint field (with Qatar), it is very important that Iran be able to use its share from the field, he said, adding that the project started in April 2018 and it has been implemented 88.66 percent.

He also said that due to the US oppressive sanctions some foreign-made equipment has not been provided yet.

PERMIT NO : 55/99/16642

DATE : 3/10/2020

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT



INVITATION TO RENEWAL OF ONE STEP INTERNATIONAL TENDER



AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES COMPANY

Agricultural Support Services Company, hereinafter will be referred as ASSC, affiliated to Ministry of Agriculture-Jahad of I.R of Iran, is considering the purchase of the below 3 items of technicals, through renewal of one step international tender.

ITEM	Name	PACKING	Quantity KG
1	Fipronil (premix 20%) Tech (18.8-21.2) pct.	200 kg drum	5500
2	Deltamethrin tech Min. 98.5%	200 kg drum	3000
3	Permethrin tech Min.95%	200 kg drum	5500

All of the qualified and interested companies are invited to receive tender documents from Saturday dated 3/10/2020 until Sunday dated 11/10/2020 (7 working days) from our purchasing committee (located at the 9th floor, no. 1, fourth alley, Gandhi st., Tehran, Iran).

The bidders are requested to submit their letters of introduction, along with remittance bill of I.Rials 1,200,000 to ASSC's account no. 4001039704005791 with SHEBA no. IR250100004001039704005791 at the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran through payment order of SATNA or PAYA with the 30 character identification code of 358039782263500650000000000000.

The bidders are requested to submit their sealed and stamped envelopes containing offers latest on Saturday dated 14/11/2020 (during official working hours) to our security office located on the 8th floor. Meanwhile the meeting for the opening of the envelopes will be held on Sunday dated 15/11/2020 at 14:00 PM with the presence of bidder's representatives at our purchasing committee hall (9th floor, no. 1, Fourth Alley, Gandhi st., Tehran, Iran).

We would like to emphasize that the bid bond amount should be in bank guarantee as follows:

- 1- € 22100 for Fipronil (premix 20%) Tech (18.8-21.2) pct. equivalent to Iranian Rials 5890000000
- 2- € 9000 for Deltamethrin Tech Min 98.5 pct. equivalent to Iranian Rials 2400000000
- 3- € 3291 for Permethrin Tech Min 95 pct. equivalent to Iranian Rials 877404000

- The bid bond value should be in Euro or in equal value of any other foreign currencies, except US dollars, based on Telegraphic Transfer rate in Sana rate website, www.sanarate.ir. It should be noted that this site lists the currency transactions, executed in Integrated Currency Transactions System [Nima website] on 15/ 09/2020.

- After approval of ASSC's Financial Manager, the bidders are permitted to use their previous and definite outstanding claims as the bid bond.

For more information, you may refer to our website www.assc.ir, and <http://iets.mporg.ir> or contact us by phone no. 00982188776325.

PR & intl Affairs Dept of Agricultural Support Services Company (ASSC)

U.S. Embassy Worker In Ukraine Dies

KYIV (Reuters) - An American woman working at the U.S. embassy in Ukraine's capital Kyiv died after a suspected assault in a park near the mission, authorities said, and a search was underway for the possible perpetrator.

Ukrainian police said a passerby found the woman unconscious with a head injury, wearing running gear and headphones in the area of western Kyiv. She was taken to hospital, where she died.

Police added they were seeking a dark-haired man aged between 30-40, who wore dark shorts and a T-shirt, and may have been involved in beating the American woman.



Namibia Faces Tough Challenge To Reverse Apartheid Legacy

WINDHOEK (Reuters) - Namibian President Hage Geingob said on Thursday that the southwestern African country must take care in its efforts to reverse the legacy of racist white minority rule, so as not to be seen as grabbing wealth.

Speaking at a virtual session at an event organised by international organisation Horasis, Geingob said Namibia's status as an upper middle income country belied the fact that some 80% of its population, mostly Black, was living in poverty, while whites who make up less than 5% of Namibia's 2.4 million people were wealthy. "We are proud to be an upper middle income country ... But that is forgetting that we are coming from an apartheid background where Blacks were left out," he said.



Turkey Rebuffs Russia, France and U.S. Over Nagorno-Karabakh Ceasefire Moves



BAKU (Reuters) - The presidents of France, Russia and the United States called on Thursday for an immediate ceasefire between Azerbaijan and ethnic Armenian forces around Nagorno-Karabakh, but Turkey said the three big powers should have no role in peace moves.

France, Russia and the United States are co-chairs of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's (OSCE) Minsk Group, set up in 1992 to mediate in the decades-old conflict over the mountainous enclave in the South Caucasus.

They appealed for peace as the death toll rose in the heaviest clashes since the 1990s around Nagorno-Karabakh - part of Azerbaijan, but run by its mostly ethnic Armenian inhabitants. "We call for an immediate cessation of hostilities between the relevant military forces," the joint French, Russian and U.S. statement said.

They urged the ex-Soviet republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan to "commit without delay to resuming substantive negotiations, in good faith and without preconditions" under what is called the Minsk process.

But in a speech to the Turkish parliament just before the three countries' statement, President Tayyip Erdogan said he opposed their involvement. "Given that the USA, Russia and France have neglected this problem for nearly 30 years, it is unacceptable that they are involved in a search for a ceasefire," Erdogan said. He said a lasting ceasefire could be achieved only if "Armenian occupiers" withdrew from Nagorno-Karabakh.

His comments are likely to fuel tension with his NATO allies as fears mount that the conflict could draw in regional powers Russia, which has a military base in majority Christian Armenia, and Turkey, a close ally of mainly Muslim Azerbaijan.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and his Turkish counterpart had spoken by phone and expressed their willingness to cooperate closely to stabilise the situation, Lavrov's ministry said.

Dozens of people have been reported killed and hundreds wounded since Sunday in fighting that has renewed concern about stability in the South Caucasus, a corridor for pipelines carrying oil and gas to world markets.

Nagorno-Karabakh broke away from Azerbaijan in a 1991-94 war that killed 30,000 people, but is not recognised internationally as an independent republic. Azerbaijan's civilian death toll has risen to 19, with 55 wounded, its prosecutor general's office said. Azerbaijan has not reported on casualties among its military forces.

Nagorno-Karabakh has said 103 of its servicemen have been killed and more than 200 wounded but has given no figures on civilian casualties.

Armenia said two French nationals working for France's Le Monde newspaper had been wounded during Azeri shelling of the town of Martuni in Nagorno-Karabakh, clarifying earlier confusion over the location of the incident.

The Nagorno-Karabakh region's foreign ministry said the two journalists had been operated on by local doctors. An Armenian government source said they were in critical condition and had been transported to the Armenian capital Yerevan.

French President Emmanuel Macron and Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed on the need for a ceasefire in a telephone call late on Wednesday. Their joint statement with U.S. President Donald Trump was issued hours later on Thursday. Macron's office said he and Putin had shared "concern regarding the sending of Syrian mercenaries by Turkey to Nagorno-Karabakh".

Lebanon, Israel Agree to Talks To End Sea Border Dispute

BEIRUT (Reuters) - Lebanon and Israel have agreed to a framework for U.S.-mediated talks aimed at ending a long-running dispute along the border between the two nations that have fought several conflicts.

Still in a formal state of war, Lebanon and Israel have contested their land and maritime borders for decades, namely over an area in the sea on the edge of three Lebanese offshore energy blocks. Israel said the talks would cover the sea border.

Washington has mediated between the two sides.

"This is a framework agreement, not a final one," Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri told reporters, less than a month after the United States imposed sanctions on his top aide for corruption and financially enabling Hezbollah, the Iran-backed Lebanese group which Washington deems a terrorist organisation.

The heavily armed Hezbollah and Israel, sworn enemies, last fought a war in 2006.



Trump Slashes Refugee Numbers to Record Low

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - President Donald Trump's administration said late Wednesday the United States will admit a record low of no more than 15,000 refugees over the coming year despite surging global displacement, stepping up its hard line one month before elections.

The State Department announced the number just half an hour before the October 1 start of the 2021 fiscal year, narrowly meeting a deadline set by US law following criticism by lawmakers.

The 15,000 figure -- the maximum who can be admitted over the next 12 months barring a change in administration -- is a further cut from 18,000 last year and down dramatically from more than 100,000 under previous president Barack Obama.

Trump, who has campaigned on fierce denunciations of immigration, already suspended refugee admissions entirely for several months this year citing the Covid-19 pandemic. Explaining the new curbs, the State Department said the United States wanted to help displaced people "as close to their homes as possible" until they can return home.

"By focusing on ending the conflicts that drive displacement in the first place, and by providing overseas humanitarian assistance to protect and assist displaced people, we can prevent the destabilizing effects of such displacement on affected countries and their neighbors," a statement said.

The State Department pointed to its emphasis on "diplomatic solutions" on Venezuela, where the United States has been trying unsuccessfully to topple leftist leader Nicolas Maduro.

More than five million people have fled Venezuela's crumbling economy. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo voiced appreciation to hosts Colombia and Brazil on a regional tour visit last week where he met Venezuelan migrants.

Refugee advocates had pleaded with the Trump administration to raise admissions in the face of global conflicts and fresh instability due to the pandemic.

Iraqis Gather in Baghdad to Mark Anti-Gov't Protests Anniversary

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - A few hundred Iraqis gathered in Baghdad's central Tahrir square on Thursday to mark the anniversary of anti-government unrest that erupted last year and to put pressure on the authorities to meet their demands.

Protesters waved the Iraqi flag and chanted "free revolutionaries, we will continue the path."

Some sang patriotic songs while clapping.

"We are here to start the revolution again...We haven't forgotten about the blood of the martyrs," said Abbas Younis, 25, wearing an Iraqi flag as a cape and a surgical mask.

More than 560 people, mostly unarmed demonstrators but also some members of the security forces, have been killed since a spate of popular unrest began on Oct. 1, 2019, with both security forces and unidentified gunmen shooting people dead.

London-based Amnesty International called on the Iraqi government on Thursday to do more to "deliver justice to the hundreds killed in the course of exercising their right to peaceful assembly."

"Find the missing, deliver justice for lives lost," it said.

Protesters, most of them young, are demanding an

overhaul of a political system they see as profoundly corrupt and keeping most Iraqis in poverty.

The protests have shaken the country out of two years of relative calm following the defeat of Islamic State insurgents.

Fighting between political parties clinging to power has fuelled the crisis and threatens to kindle more unrest.

Last year's protests caused the resignation of Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi, who was replaced in May by Mustafa al-Kadhimi, who pledged to investigate the deaths and incarceration of hundreds of protesters.

Demonstrators on Thursday gave the government until Oct. 25 to meet their demands by Oct. 25 or face a general strike.

"Our demands are simple and legitimate... We demand the killers of the protesters be prosecuted," said Mustafa Makki.

Dressed in combat trousers and wearing a shirt with an image of a slain protester and a necklace made out of an empty tear gas canister, the 24-year-old said he had four bullet wounds, and one of them had cost him his vision in his left eye.



Kremlin Says Navalny Charges Against Putin "Unacceptable"

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - The Kremlin on Thursday accused opposition leader Alexei Navalny of working with the CIA and making "groundless and unacceptable statements" after he claimed President Vladimir Putin had orchestrated his poisoning with Novichok.

"I assert that Putin is behind this act, I don't see any other explanation," the anti-corruption campaigner told Der Spiegel in his first published interview since being discharged from a German hospital.

But Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov countered: "We believe that such charges against the Russian president are absolutely groundless and unacceptable."

He also claimed that the CIA was "currently working" with Navalny, who studied at Yale University, but did not provide any evidence.

"It's not the patient who is working with Western security services, it's Western security services who are working with him," the Kremlin spokesman said.

"I can even say directly that CIA instructors are currently working with him." Navalny immediately said he would sue Peskov, accusing him of "talking nonsense." The 44-year-old also challenged the Kremlin to release "evidence and facts" proving his cooperation with the CIA.

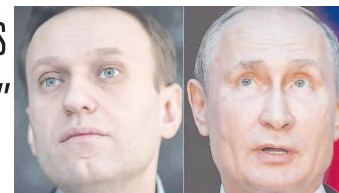
"If the authorities on behalf of which Peskov is speaking have the proof of the nonsense he's saying, then it's a matter of national security, and I demand this proof be published," Navalny said.

Navalny was evacuated to Berlin for treatment after he collapsed in August on a flight from Tomsk to Moscow following a campaign trip to support opposition candidates in local elections.

The Putin critic was discharged just over a week ago after Germany found that he was poisoned with the Soviet-designed nerve agent Novichok. The Kremlin has denied any involvement.

In the interview with Der Spiegel, Navalny again vowed to return to Russia as soon as he has fully recovered, saying he would not give Putin "the gift" of his absence from the country.

Earlier Thursday, the speaker of Russia's lower house of parliament, Vyacheslav Volodin, also accused the "shameless" opposition leader of working for Western security services and claimed Navalny owed his life to Putin.





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Shanon (adviser)

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Sauna, J
green yard
pkgs, & F.F

Parsian

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Darrous (\$2200) 220sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p, S, J, pkg, & F.F
Mirdamad (\$1500) 200sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p, S, J, pkg, & F.F
Niavaran (\$2500) 240sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p, S, J, pkg, & F.F

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Italy Factory Activity Grows for Third Month in September

ROME (Reuters) - Italian manufacturing activity expanded for a third month running in September and at roughly the same rate as the month before, a survey showed on Thursday, as the economy recovers following a nationwide coronavirus lockdown.

The IHS Markit Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) came in at 53.2, compared with 53.1 in August and 51.9 in July, remaining above the 50 mark that separates growth from contraction.

The reading was slightly weaker than the median forecast of 53.5 in a Reuters survey of 17 analysts.



Saudi Economy Shrinks 7% While Unemployment Hits Record High

RIYADH (Dispatches) - Saudi Arabia's economy shrank 7 percent in the second quarter from the same period a year earlier, while unemployment soared to a record high, government figures released on Wednesday showed.

The oil sector of the world's largest crude exporter shrank 5.3 percent from April through June as it was knocked sideways by the coronavirus pandemic that gutted global crude demand this year.

The damage was exacerbated after the kingdom's de facto leader, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS), initiated an oil price war that saw prices of global benchmark crude crash below \$20 a barrel in April.

The kingdom's non-oil sector – the development of which is key to MBS's ambitious blueprint for weaning the kingdom off of income from fossil fuels – shrank by 8.2 percent in the second quarter, as lockdown restrictions brought business activity to a halt.

Those restrictions have been rolling back, while a truce among the world's top producers has lifted the price of global benchmark crude back above \$40 a barrel, though they are still nearly 40 percent lower than where they started the year.

And oil prices are far short of the \$76.01 a barrel the International Monetary Fund says Saudi Arabia needs to balance its state budget this year.

The kingdom derives roughly 80 percent of its revenues from oil.

Saudi Arabia's unemployment rate in the second quarter surged to an all-time high of 15.4 percent. Clawing back from that hit will likely be harder, say, analysts, thanks to the budget squeeze that constricts government spending, and austerity measures, including a tripling of value-added tax (VAT) from 5 percent to 15 percent.

That belt-tightening hits less well-off Saudi households disproportionately by gobbling up a bigger slice of their disposable incomes. And when after-tax incomes shrink, people spend less – which can act as a drag on the economic recovery.

“Even though containment measures have started to be lifted, the imposition of harsh fiscal austerity in recent months means that the recovery will be weak,” Capital Economics senior emerging markets economist Jason Tuvey wrote in a note to clients on Wednesday.

The IMF expects the Saudi economy to contract 6.8 percent this year and bounce back to 3.1 percent growth in 2021.

Slight Fall in German Unemployment on Economic Rebound

BERLIN (Dispatches) - German unemployment fell slightly in September, official data showed Wednesday, as Europe's largest economy showed further signs of recovery following the initial hit from the coronavirus pandemic.

The seasonally adjusted jobless rate ticked down to 6.3 percent in September, from 6.4 percent in August, the BA federal labour agency said.

“The impact of the corona pandemic on the labour market is still clearly visible. However, there are slight signs of improvement,” said the BA's Daniel Terzenbach.

Coronavirus lockdowns brought the economy to a halt initially but as factories and businesses have returned to work, sentiment has improved.

Economy Minister Peter Altmaier said recently that Germany was on track for a “V-shaped” recovery, signalling a strong upswing in the economy after a considerable decline in earlier in the year. Government-backed short-time work schemes, called “Kurzarbeit” in German, have softened the blow, saving hundreds of thousands of jobs.

The number of people in short-time work fell in September to 4.2 million from a peak in April of 5.95 million,

the BA agency said, although both numbers are considerably higher than at the height of the financial crash in 2009.

Before the coronavirus struck, German joblessness had hovered at a record low of around five percent.

But prospects may darken as the country moves into the colder autumn and winter months and fears grow about a recent uptick in coronavirus cases.

Chancellor Angela Merkel on Tuesday announced new measures to tackle the increase, including restrictions on parties and family gatherings.

“Unemployment should fall by the end of the year,” said Fritz Koehler-Geib, economist at Germany's public investment bank KfW.

“However, we can assume that the number of infections will rise again in the autumn. This could lead to a further slowdown in the economic recovery.”



UK Factories Grow for Fourth Month, Job Losses Slow

LONDON (Reuters) - British factory activity grew for a fourth month in a row in September, though more slowly than in August, and the sector cut the fewest jobs since before the COVID-19 lockdown, a survey showed on Thursday.

The IHS Markit/CIPS manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) came in at 54.1. That was down a touch from a preliminary reading of 54.3 and below August's two-and-a-half-year high of 55.2, but well above the 50.0 threshold denoting growth.

“Output and new orders increased as new work intakes improved from both domestic and overseas markets,” IHS Markit said, pointing to more companies reopening after the lockdown and staff returning to work from temporary layoffs.

Britain's economy is recovering from its COVID-19 lockdown more quickly than predicted by the Bank of England and other forecasters, although it probably remains as much as 10% smaller than before the pandemic, BoE Governor Andrew Bailey has said. The pace of the bounce-back is expected to slow in the coming months as the government scales back its job subsidies and seeks to clamp down on rising COVID-19 cases.

But Thursday's PMI survey for the manufacturing sector - which accounts for about 10% of Britain's economy - showed little sign of a slowdown in September.

The steepest increase in output was in intermediate goods, typically a sign that companies are investing in more equipment, and confidence was close to July's 28-month high.

“However, there were also increased numbers of firms noting uncertainty about the path ahead, particularly regarding COVID-19 and Brexit,” Markit said.

Jobs were lost for the eighth month in a row but at the slowest pace since February.

As demand picked up and raw materials became more expensive, the cost of inputs rose at the fastest pace in 21 months, leading manufacturers to raise their selling prices again.

India Faces Ballooning Fiscal Deficit as Pandemic Hits Taxes

NEW DELHI (Reuters) - India is staring at a ballooning fiscal deficit against an initial estimate of 3.5% of GDP in the current financial year as the coronavirus shrinks jobs and hits tax collection, government data showed.

The federal fiscal deficit for the five months through August stood at 8.7 trillion rupees (\$117.98 billion), or 109.3% of the budgeted target for the current fiscal year ending in March 2021.

Net federal tax receipts in the five months through August declined by about 30% year on year to 2.84 trillion rupees, even though fuel taxes rose.

The deficit is predicted to exceed 8% of GDP in the 2020/21 fiscal year, economists said, mainly due to a sharp economic contraction triggered by the pandemic.

“Five months of data reveal a sordid tale,” said Aditi Nayar, economist at ICRA, the Indian arm of Moody's rating agency, adding the deficit for the whole year could spike to 14 trillion rupees against budgeted estimate of 8 trillion rupees.

The government has not officially revised the fiscal deficit target so far for the whole fiscal year.

Asia's third-largest economy is forecast to shrink up to 10% in the current fiscal year, according to estimates by several private economists, its weakest performance since 1979.

In May, the government increased its borrowing target to 12 trillion rupees from an earlier budgeted 7.8 trillion rupees through bonds for the 2020/21 fiscal year.

The number of COVID-19 cases crossed 6.2 million on Wednesday, second only to the United States, while the death toll rose to 97,497.

Over five months, total expenditure rose 5.9% year-on-year to 12.5 trillion rupees as the government increased spending on grain and rural jobs programmes for millions of migrant workers.

EU Launches Legal Action Against UK Over Brexit Treaty

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) - EU chief Ursula von der Leyen declared Thursday that Brussels has begun legal action over the British government's attempt to overturn parts of the Brexit withdrawal agreement.

“This morning, the Commission has decided to send a letter of formal notice to the UK Government. This is the first step in an infringement procedure,” von der Leyen said.

London now has one month to reply to the letter of complaint, which could lead to a lawsuit at the Luxembourg-based European Court of Justice and hefty fines for the UK. The legal action underscores the worsening relations between the EU and its former member at a time when both sides are trying to forge a rudimentary free trade agreement before the end of the year. On Tuesday, British lawmakers adopted a bill to regulate the UK's internal market from January 1, when Britain will complete its post-Brexit transition period and leave the EU single market and customs union.

The proposed law, by London's own admission, overwrites parts of the withdrawal treaty that Prime Minister Boris Johnson signed with EU leaders last year, a breach of international law.

Johnson's government has described this bill as a “safety net” in case post-Brexit trade talks fail and the EU tries to impose a customs border between Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

But EU capitals — including Dublin — see these provisions as key to preventing a return of a hard border with Ireland and preserving the good relations underpinned by the Good Friday peace deal in Northern Ireland.

“As you know, we had invited our British friends to remove the problematic parts of their draft internal market bill by the end of September,” von der Leyen said. “This draft bill is by its very nature, a breach of the obligation of good faith laid down in the withdrawal agreement. Moreover, if adopted as is, it will be in full contradiction to the protocol of Ireland, Northern Ireland.

“The deadline lapsed yesterday, the problematic provisions have not been removed.”

A statement from the European Commission said that the bill would breach Article 5 of the Withdrawal Agreement, which states that both sides must “cooperate in good faith” to implement the agreement.

Brussels had already warned that it would take legal action, but Johnson has pushed on with the legislation — despite concerns in his own party and a warning from Washington that it puts Irish peace at risk. The controversial legislation is now being debated by the House of Lords.

In parallel to the battle over the bill, EU and UK negotiators Michel Barnier and David Frost are meeting in Brussels this week for their final planned round of talks on a post-Brexit trade deal. Diplomats say these talks will not necessarily be torpedoed by the legal action but London's stance has cast a cloud over negotiations ahead of a planned EU summit on October 15.

If there is no deal by the end of October, European officials warn it is hard to see how one could be ratified by the end of the year, meaning the UK would leave the single market with no trade agreement.

For Building More Inclusive, Age-Friendly Societies, Listen to Older Persons Ideas



TEHRAN (UNIC) — United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in his message on the International Day of Older Persons, 1 October 2020, called on all to listen to older persons' voices, suggestions and ideas to build more inclusive and age-friendly societies.

The full text of his message reads:

The world marks the 30th anniversary of the International Day of Older Persons as we reckon with the disproportionate and severe impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has wrought on older persons around the world – not only on their health, but on their rights and well-being.

Older people must be a priority in our efforts to overcome COVID-19. In keeping with the theme of this year's commemoration, we must also examine how the pandemic might change how we address age and ageing in our societies. Expanding opportunities for older persons and increasing their access to health, pensions and social protection will be crucial.

This year's observance falls as the world is also marking the International Year of the Nurse and Midwife, which highlights the vital role of health and social workers, such as nurses and midwives, in responding to the pandemic. The majority of them are women, including many older persons. These are the people who devote their lives to our care, and to the care of older persons, mothers and children, and deserve far greater support.

As we seek to recover better together, we must make concerted efforts across the Decade of Healthy Ageing 2020-2030 to improve the lives of older persons, their families and communities. The potential of older persons is a powerful basis for sustainable development. More than ever, we must listen to their voices, suggestions and ideas to build more inclusive and age-friendly societies.

Zarif Commemorates Int'l Rumi Day

TEHRAN (IRNA)- Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif in a message commemorated International Rumi Day, saying let's pray to God for respect and civility in their place. "Let's pray to God for respect and civility in their place Since those who lack them lose out on His Grace, It's not as though it's just themselves they harm, They set

the world on fire, disrupt the calm," Zarif wrote in his Twitter account on Wednesday. "Commemorating International Rumi Day, As pertinent today as 800 years ago," he added. Rumi was born in Balkh in 1207 and died in Konya, Turkey, in 1273 and his tomb (Shrine of Rumi) is located in Konya.



Copper Rises After Upbeat Chinese Economic Data

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Copper prices climbed Wednesday, advancing back toward a multiyear high hit in mid-September after data showed China's economic recovery is gathering momentum.

Most actively traded copper futures for December delivery added 1.4% to \$3.0325 a pound, moving back toward a recent peak of \$3.116 hit on Sept. 18.

The industrial metal has risen about 8% for the year and recovered roughly 40% in the past six months following an early-year selloff. Prices tumbled after the Chinese economy shut early during the coronavirus crisis but have benefited with economic activity in the world's biggest commodity consumer rising lately.

China accounts for roughly half of global copper demand, making its manufacturing sector a primary driver of prices. Copper is a key component of everything from electric vehicles to smartphones.

A pre-markets primer packed with news, trends and ideas. Plus, up-to-the-minute market data.

Figures Wednesday showed China's official manufacturing purchasing managers index rose more than expected in September, the latest data point indicating an upbeat recovery in China after new coronavirus cases in the country generally stopped rising. A separate private gauge of manufacturing activity also pointed to a healthy rebound driven in part by government stimulus.

The steady pace of economic growth in China during its rebound contrasts with the slowdown some analysts expect to hit the U.S. and Europe, which are grappling with recent rises in coronavirus cases.

Copper's close ties to China and manufacturing have helped the industrial metal outpace other commodities such as oil that have been hit harder by the pandemic and are more closely linked to global travel.

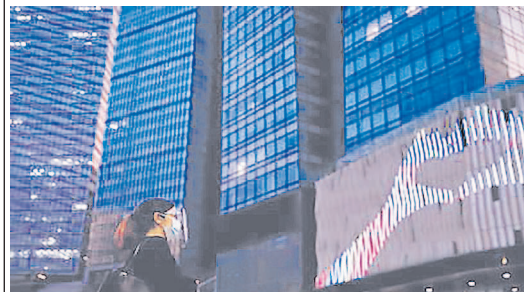
A Citigroup tool that tracks end uses of copper in China throughout various sectors like appliance makers is also showing robust demand, with the three-month average of the tracker now at its highest level since early in 2017. That highlights "China's 'V' shaped recovery," Citi analysts said in a note.



Traders will be monitoring economic activity in China during a coming eight-day holiday that begins Thursday. But some analysts also caution that prices for industrial metals could become more volatile because a key source of liquidity will be absent during the coming stretch. Overnight trading during Asian trading hours often sets the tone for the following day's activity in London and New York.

Elsewhere in commodities Wednesday, U.S. crude-oil futures added 2.4% to \$40.22 a barrel after government data showed crude inventories fell unexpectedly last week. Still, oil prices have stalled around \$40 lately, pausing a summer rebound with fuel demand in the U.S. stagnating and analysts questioning when global travel patterns will normalize.

World Bank Sees Worst GDP Drop for the Philippines in 35 Years



MANILA (Dispatches) - With Covid-19 still not contained in the Philippines, the World Bank sees gross domestic product (GDP) shrinking by 6.9 per cent this year — the worst drop in 35 years — even as the country's chief economist expects slower third-quarter contraction than the record fall at the height of the lockdown in the second quarter.

The Washington-based multilateral lender's updated GDP forecast for the Philippines, contained in its October 2020 East Asia and Pacific Economic Update report released on Tuesday (Sept 29), was a steeper fall than the 1.9-per cent decline projected in June.

The forecasts of the World Bank as well as most other banks and financial institutions were beyond the government's projection of a 4.5-6.6 per cent full-year contraction.

Acting Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Karl Kendrick Chua told the Inquirer on Tuesday that the economic team was constantly reviewing its own forecast as new data came in. But Chua, who heads the state planning agency National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), said he believed that the worst was over for the Philippine economy.

Citing the latest monthly manufacturing, external trade and labour data, Chua said these "suggest improvement" from the second-quarter GDP, which fell by a record 16.5 per cent as 75 per cent of the economy was put to a halt by the most stringent Covid-19 quarantine in the region from mid-March to May.

Manufacturing and trade data remained negative to date, however, such that Neda Undersecretary Rosemarie G. Edillon told a press conference Tuesday that the third-quarter performance would likely remain negative year-on-year.

The World Bank's full-year GDP forecast, if realised, would match the 6.9-per cent economic contraction in 1985, at the height of a debt crisis during the waning years of the Marcos dictatorship.

World Bank senior economist for the Philippines Rong Qian told an online press briefing on Tuesday that GDP would revert to prepandemic levels by end-2021, a slower pace compared to neighbouring countries such as Indonesia, where Covid-19 cases also remained elevated.

Qian said it did not help that the Philippine economy was "much more connected to the world" than domestic-driven Indonesia, especially in terms of tourism, services and trade exports as well as remittances.

On top of the bigger exposure to global demand, the Philippines also had a longer and stricter Covid-19 lockdown, Qian added.

Spanish GDP Could Grow by 7.2% in 2021 If Virus Kept in Check

MADRID (Reuters) - The Spanish economy could bounce back from its worst recession on record to grow by 7.2% in 2021 but that will depend on the government's ability to limit new coronavirus infections, the International Monetary Fund mission said.

The size, timing, and composition of EU-funded spending programs will also affect the pace of recovery, the fund said in a report, warning that output would take several years to reach pre-pandemic levels.

"A failure to control new outbreaks, slower-than-anticipated progress on vaccines and treatments, a no-deal Brexit and escalation of trade tensions could subdue the outlook further," the report said.

Following one of Europe's strictest coronavirus lockdowns, Spain's economy contracted a record 17.8% in the second quarter from the previous quarter and 21.5% compared with the same quarter a year earlier.

The IMF expects GDP to slump by 12.8% in 2020.

To cushion the blow for companies and workers, economic support policies should be extended and scaled, while fiscal measures should be maintained to limit the risk of stress on the financial system, the IMF said.

Some companies may also require a state bailout, though such equity support should be temporary and come with a clear exit strategy, the IMF said.

White House Stimulus Proposal Goes Over \$1.5 trillion With \$20b for Airlines

WASHINGTON (Dispatches)

- (Reuters) - The Trump

administration has proposed

including a \$20 billion

extension in aid for the

battered airline industry in a

new stimulus proposal to

House Democrats worth

over \$1.5 trillion, White

House chief of staff Mark

Meadows said.

"There's \$20 billion in the most recent proposal for the

airlines that would give them a six month extension,"

Meadows told reporters aboard Air Force One, noting

that the industry was in urgent need of support.

American Airlines and United Airlines, two of the

largest U.S. carriers, said they were beginning furloughs

of over 32,000 workers on Thursday as hopes faded for

a last-minute bailout from Washington. U.S. airlines

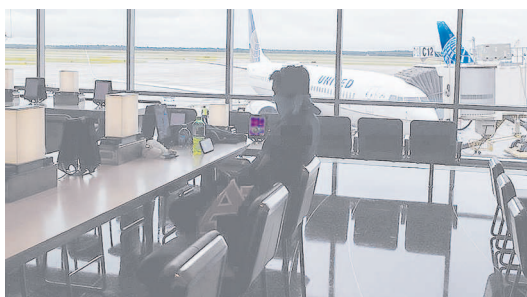
have been pleading for another \$25 billion in payroll

support to protect jobs for a further six months after the

current package, which banned furloughs, expired at

midnight EDT.

Coronavirus relief talks between the White House and



House Democrats had

stalled in large part over the

price tag, with Democrats

seeking \$2.2 trillion and the

White House staying firm at

\$1.5 trillion.

Meadows declined to

provide the total value of

the White House's latest

proposal but said the

figure is "certainly above the

\$1.5 trillion that has been articulated to date."

"As you get above \$1.5 trillion, it gets extremely difficult to

justify based on the facts," he cautioned, explicitly stating

that \$2 trillion was too much. "If it starts with a 2,

it's going to be a real problem," he added.

Speaking on a flight to Washington from the swing

state of Minnesota where U.S. President Donald Trump

had headlined a rally ahead of presidential elections in

November, Meadows said he was hopeful talks will

continue with Democrats on Thursday.

Meadows also told reporters that a stop-gap spending

bill approved by the Republican-controlled Senate and

the Democratically-led House to fund the government

through December 11 had been received by the

White House. Trump has signed the bill.

Trump's Decisions Led...

FROM PAGE 1

The Iranian newly-appointed spokesman for the ministry of Foreign affairs referred to the US 2020 presidential election as an inconsiderable event for Iran and said: While this election matters for many countries and has regional and international impacts, Iran is among the few sovereign countries which its policy doesn't depend on who take the U.S. oval office.

Khatibzadeh added: "It is unlikely that Trump would be able to unify the world against Iran in the future because the United States has lost its political, economic and military hegemony in different countries of the world." Iran's FM Spokesman pointed to the new efforts made by some Zionist-Arab lobbies and said: "The 'Resistance Movement' in the region is so strong that the US and its ignoble allies hard work against it has not led to any real success so far."

Oil, OPEC...

FROM PAGE 1

The OPEC in December 2016 and after two years of experiencing the nose-diving oil price in the global oil markets reached an agreement with some non-OPEC countries on cutting the oil production. These non-OPEC countries could, beside the OPEC members, regulate the market in 2017 through reviewing the volume of production and sales in the market. The joint policy-making among 10 oil producing countries like Russia along with 13 OPEC member states, which is known as OPEC Plus, is a body which was practically, before April 6, 2012, a coalition led by Moscow and Riyadh in controlling the oil production and distribution in the market. Of course violation of the OPEC Plus agreement by some countries was totally evident which created fluctuation in the oil market and Russia sells also two-thirds of its crude oil exports to only two markets of Europe and Northeast Asia which is mainly transhipped via pipeline.



In China's market, since the outbreak of the COVID-19, Russia has filled Iran and Venezuela's gap in the oil market and it has boosted its share of the oil market. Before the agreement on cutting the production in the OPEC Plus, Russian companies were actively after developing the green fields (new fields) in the remote coastal areas like Siberia and Far East of Russia in order to compensate the production slump in other regions of Russia.

However, regarding the current oil price, aura of ambiguity has gripped the continuation of investment and production in the green fields. So far, Russian oil companies have not stopped their macro investments and they are optimistic over the return of the global oil price and the agreement of OPEC Plus members on cutting the production. That the condition in the global oil market today is moving towards lack demand and purchaser, so-called the market, is also somewhat really a motivation for a strategic police-making for Iran.

If Majlis and officials do strive to take a bold stand and announce that Iran has stopped crude oil sale, the country can convert its oil production into oil products in a decade whose natural values are several times more than crude oil sales. The interaction among world powers together on the oil has always had disturbances for OPEC and OPEC Plus and I wish we had not acceded to such disturbances.

Medical Ban...

FROM PAGE 1

Often known as butterfly children because their skin is as fragile as the wings of a butterfly, EB patients need special care. Even mild frictions or bumps cause severe blistering of the skin which is painful.

They often have difficulty with daily activities, such as walking, eating and even breathing, but without proper protective bandages, their agony is heartbreaking.

The trade of humanitarian goods, such as food, medicine and medical devices, is theoretically allowed by the U.S., but European companies refuse to do business with Iran, fearing secondary American sanctions.

Since the reimposition of sanctions, Swedish medical products firm Molnlycke Health Care has stopped delivering Mepilex dressings which are trusted around the world to treat a wide range of chronic and acute wounds, including in EB patients, Iranian media reports say.

U.S. President Donald Trump pulled his country out of a 2015 nuclear deal with Iran and reimposed sanctions, saying he believed economic pressures would force Tehran into concessions.

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) — the principal judicial organ of the United Nations — ordered the U.S. in October 2018 to halt the unilateral sanctions it had reimposed on humanitarian supplies to Iran.

Chabahar-Gwadar...

FROM PAGE 1

Referring to the areas of cooperation and investment between Iran and Pakistan, Mohammad Ali Hosseini said: "Energy, gas, and oil can be a potential for the development of these interactions and investment between the two countries."

He added that Iran has very good potential in the energy sector and can have a significant amount of exports to Pakistan.

"Right now, a small amount of electricity is exported from Iran to Pakistan. At the same time, Tehran has already announced its readiness to increase electricity exports to parts of Pakistan," stated the ambassador.

Regarding the plan to link the Iranian gas pipeline to Pakistan, Hosseini noted that the plan was signed in 2009 and Iran completed its share despite illegal US sanctions and other pressures, including economic restrictions.

He said: "Iran is looking forward to the practical steps of the Pakistani side to fulfill its obligations in this regard because if we can implement this investment project, many opportunities will be provided to strengthen cooperation."

Regarding joint cooperation with Pakistan in the fields of tourism, health, and pilgrimage, the Iranian ambassador expressed that the two countries are able to invest in strengthening and increasing public travel to each other's countries. He called the future of Iran-Pakistan relations as 'very bright' and expressed that the motivation and determination of high-ranking officials along with the interest of the people of the two countries should strengthen relations in various fields despite the enemies and ill-wishers.

Milan Sign

Norwegian Striker Hauge

MILAN (Reuters) - AC Milan have signed 20-year-old Norwegian striker Jens Petter Hauge from Bodo/Glimt, the Serie A club said on Thursday.

Hauge has played for Norway at youth level, although he has yet to make his senior debut, and scored 35 goals in 118 games for Bodo/Glimt, the Norwegian club where he was developed.

The specialist website Transfermarkt said Milan had signed Hauge for five million euros (\$5.87 million).

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Neymar and

Alvaro Avoid Sanctions

PARIS (Reuters) - No action will be taken against PSG forward Neymar or Olympique de Marseille defender Alvaro Gonzalez for alleged discriminatory comments made during a Ligue 1 match, the discipline Commission of the Ligue de Football Professionnel (LFP) said on Wednesday.

Both players risked suspensions of up to 10 matches for comments allegedly made at the end of an ill-tempered 1-0 win for Marseille in Paris this month.

8 IRAN NEWS

SPORTS

SATURDAY OCTOBER 3, 2020

Messi and Ronaldo Will Face Each Other in Champions League

PARIS (Dispatches) - Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi will face each other in the Champions League group stage for the first time - and fans could be allowed back in to watch. Messi's Barcelona was drawn from the pot of second-seeded teams Thursday into the group where Ronaldo's Juventus team was already placed as a top seed. The group was later completed by Dynamo Kyiv and Ferencvaros.

The 35-year-old Ronaldo and the 33-year-old Messi had a nine-year rivalry in the Spanish league when the Portugal star was with Real Madrid. However, they could never face each other so early in the Champions League then because clubs from the same country are separated in the draw.

They did meet in the 2009 final, when Messi scored as Barcelona beat Ronaldo's Manchester United 2-0.

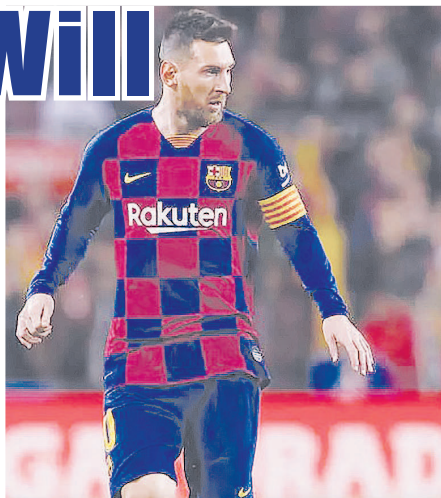
Dates for the games in Turin and Barcelona will not be confirmed until Friday, but there could be fans on hand to watch the high-profile clashes.

UEFA said stadiums can be filled to 30% capacity for all matches it organizes - including the Champions League, Europa League and national team games. However, only home fans will be allowed, and local authorities have final approval.

Juventus and Barcelona were paired in the group stage of the 2017-18 season -- Ronaldo's last in Madrid when he helped Real win a fourth Champions League title in five seasons. Messi scored twice in a 3-0 home win over Juventus, before the teams drew 0-0 in Italy.

The stellar clash of superstars still left space for intriguing draws in the other seven groups.

Defending champion Bayern Munich was grouped with Atlético Madrid, Salzburg



and Lokomotiv Moscow.

Paris Saint-Germain, the beaten finalist last season, was reunited with Manchester United - which it lost to because of a controversial late penalty in the round of 16 in 2019 - and Leipzig, which it beat in semifinals in August. Newcomer Istanbul Başakşehir is also in that group.

Liverpool, the 2019 champion, is top-seeded in a group of teams with reputations for playing open attacking soccer - Ajax, Atalanta and Midtjylland of Denmark, another Champions League debutant.

Six-time European champion Liverpool and four-time winner Ajax have met only once before in the competition, in 1966. Ajax eliminated Liverpool from the European Cup second round after a 5-1 first leg win in Amsterdam.

Real Madrid, the record 13-time champion, heads a group with storied European histories including Shakhtar Donetsk, Inter Milan and Borussia Mönchengladbach.

Sevilla and Chelsea, winners of the past two Europa League titles, will play two more Champions League newcomers, Krasnodar and Rennes.

Manchester City, seeking its first title, was second-seeded in a group with two former winners, Porto and Marseille, plus Olympiakos.

Zenit St. Petersburg, top-seeded as Russian league champion, will play Borussia Dortmund, Lazio and Club Brugge.

The group stage starts on Oct. 20 and is scheduled to run through Dec. 9. Games can be made up until Jan. 28 if any are postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Neymar Has 34m Euro Spanish Tax Debt

PARIS (Dispatches) - Paris Saint-Germain forward Neymar owes more unpaid tax than any other individual on a Spanish authorities' blacklist with debts of 34.6 million euros (\$40.5 million), according to an official document published Wednesday.

The Brazilian, who played for Barcelona from 2013 to 2017 before moving to the French club for 222 million euros in the most expensive transfer in history, tops the list of thousands of names published on the website of the Spanish tax office.

The Spanish press reported last year the country's tax authorities were pursuing Neymar for fiscal fraud dating back to his time at Barca, but it is the first time the information has been officially confirmed.

The Spanish tax office, contacted by AFP, did not say whether Neymar's presence on the list was linked to his 2013 transfer to Barcelona from Brazilian club Santos.

But it said to appear on the list of the highest debtors the individuals had to fulfil several criteria, including missing the final deadline to pay the debt.

Man City, Man Utd

Ease Into

League Cup Quarters

LONDON (Dispatches) - Pep Guardiola admitted it was vital to keep a clean-sheet as League Cup holders Manchester City got back on track with a 3-0 win against Burnley, while Manchester United joined their rivals in the quarter-finals after beating Brighton 3-0.

Guardiola's side suffered their heaviest home Premier League loss under the Spaniard on Sunday when Leicester handed them a humiliating 5-2 defeat.

A brace from Raheem Sterling at Turf Moor ensured they washed away some of that bitter taste from that defeat and Spanish forward Ferran Torres, a close-season signing from Valencia, added City's third goal with his first for the club.

City have won the League Cup four times in the last five seasons and they remain on course to retain the trophy.

Pep Guardiola's men would have won by an even bigger scoreline but for a fine display from Burnley keeper Bailey Peacock-Farrell.

Sterling and Kevin de Bruyne both started in a strong City side that also included Riyad Mahrez and a debut for 18-year-old midfielder Cole Palmer.

Sterling made the breakthrough 10 minutes before the interval with a powerful strike from Benjamin Mendy's cross.

The City forward doubled his tally on 49 minutes, finishing off a good move involving De Bruyne and Torres.

City put the result beyond doubt in the 65th minute when Sterling failed to control a Mahrez pass and the ball ran through for the 20-year-old Torres to slam past Peacock-Farrell.

At the Amex Stadium, Manchester United inflicted more misery on Brighton four days after beating them 3-2 in a dramatic Premier League game.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side needed a 100th minute Bruno Fernandes penalty to see off Albion on that occasion and conceding an equaliser moments early.

There was less drama this time as United made 10 changes and Brighton nine, with Solskjaer's stand-ins proving far superior.

United, who last won the League Cup in 2017, took the lead in the 44th minute when Scott McTominay headed home from Juan Mata's free-kick.



receive the award, just weeks after Bayern won the 2019/20 edition of the competition.

The Poland striker, who scored 55 goals in 47 games as Bayern also won the Bundesliga and German Cup, saw off Bayern team-mate Manuel Neuer and Manchester City's Kevin de Bruyne to win the award.

"It's an amazing feeling, because you work so hard, so this trophy is something special,"

Lewandowski Named UEFA Men's Player of Year

GENEVA (Dispatches) - Robert Lewandowski was named UEFA men's player of the year on Thursday following a superb season in which he won the treble with Bayern Munich.

Lewandowski was at the Champions League group-stage draw in Geneva to receive the award, just weeks after Bayern won the 2019/20 edition of the competition.

The Poland striker, who scored 55 goals in 47 games as Bayern also won the Bundesliga and German Cup, saw off Bayern team-mate Manuel Neuer and Manchester City's Kevin de Bruyne to win the award.

"It's an amazing feeling, because you work so hard, so this trophy is something special,"

said Lewandowski after receiving the award.

"I have to say thank you to my team-mates and coaches who helped me get where I am. Also my family have given me so much support and are so important."

Lewandowski also picked up the award for best forward in last season's Champions League after amassing 15 goals in 10 games. In one match against Red Star Belgrade he needed just 14 minutes to score four times.

The 32-year-old was also top scorer in the Bundesliga last season with 34 goals, equal to a goal a game in the 18-team league.

It was the fifth time he claimed the award for the highest number of goals in the German top flight since arriving at Bayern from Borussia Dortmund in 2014.

Lewandowski would have been the strong favourite to win this year's Ballon d'Or had it not been cancelled by France Football magazine due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Lakers Win NBA Finals Opener

MIAMI (AFP) - LeBron James, seeking a fourth NBA title in his 10th Finals appearance, has no trouble keeping his Los Angeles Lakers' dominant victory in game one of the 2020 title series in perspective.

The Lakers shook off a slow start to lead the Miami Heat by as many as 32 points on the way to a 116-98 victory in Orlando, Florida, but James insisted it was no time to celebrate.

"The best teacher in life is experience," James said. "I've experienced moments in my career where you have all the momentum in the world and you felt like you had the game under control, and one play here or one play there could change the course of a series or change the course of a game."

James is still rankled by the memory of game two of the 2011 NBA Finals, when he played alongside Dwyane Wade for the Heat against the Dallas Mavericks.

"D-Wade hits a three right by their bench," James recalled. "I believe it put us up either 13 or 17."

"From that moment on, Dallas went on a hell of a run and finished it off with a Dirk Nowitzki left-hand layup to steal that game."

"That burns me to this day," James said, adding that's why he was already looking forward to seeing where the Lakers can improve before game two against the Heat on Friday.

"I'm extremely amped up about watching the film with our ballclub tomorrow," he said. "I'm going to watch some tonight obviously by myself, but I'm looking forward to getting together as a group tomorrow."

While the championship series stage is nothing new to James -- or the 16-time champion Lakers franchise -- it's a first for star teammate Anthony Davis.



Bayern Win German Super Cup to Lift Fifth Title in 2020

BERLIN (Dispatches) - Bayern Munich claimed their fifth title of the year on Wednesday as a late Joshua Kimmich goal sealed their 3-2 win over Borussia Dortmund to land the German Super Cup.

Hosts Bayern built a 2-0 lead with first-half goals by Corentin Tolisso and Thomas Mueller, only for Erling Braut Haaland to equalise early in the second half after Julian Brandt pulled a Dortmund goal back just before the break.

However, Kimmich settled the matter through sheer determination behind closed doors at the Allianz Arena.

His initial shot was saved by Dortmund goalkeeper Marwin Hitz but the rebound clipped Kimmich's boot and looped in for the winning goal eight minutes from time.

"Joshua is a classy player. The way he chipped that ball in," said Bayern captain Manuel Neuer in admiration.

Having had their record 23-match winning streak ended by a shock defeat at Hoffenheim on Sunday, Bayern bounced back with Kimmich leading the charge.

"As long as I have known him (Kimmich), his mentality is very special. He is well on his way to being one of those players who shape this club," Bayern head coach Hansi Flick told broadcaster ZDF. Bayern have already won an eighth-straight Bundesliga title, the German Cup, Champions League and the UEFA Super Cup this year.

This is the fourth time in five years they have won the showcase match.

Dortmund goalkeeper Roman Buerki and England winger Jadon Sancho missed the flight to Munich with "a respiratory infection", the club said, but both tested negative on Monday for Covid-19.

SUPERCUP 2020

