

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov Said That Moscow Has Been In Contact With Iran and Turkey Regarding the Developments In Nagorno-Karabakh

IRAN NEWS

IRGC Is Using the Indigenized Version Of RQ-170 Drones,- Manufactured Through the Reverse Engineering of A American Pilotless Plane, For Seeding Clouds Over the Iranian Territories

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People Do Not Accept Weakness of Officials

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN – Judiciary Chief Hojjatoleslam Seyed Ebrahim Raesi says people do not accept weakness or incapability of officials in resolving problems and urged officials to work harder to resolve problems.

Speaking in the weekly meeting of the officials of the Judiciary, Hojjatoleslam Raesi pointed to the media and economic war which have been waged by enemies against Iranian nation for years, adding that only showing authority and strength can stop such bullying of enemies and any weakness or passiveness from officials will embolden the enemies.

He added that whenever officials strongly stood against the enemies, the country achieved victory and warned officials to follow the guidelines of Imam and Supreme Leader in their works and to refrain from expressing and showing any weakness and incapability against enemies.

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Saudi, Israel Have No Right to Comment On Nuclear Commitment

TEHRAN (IFP) - Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Saeed Khatibzadeh has derided the expression of concern from Saudi Arabia about what the kingdom has called an Iranian violation of the JCPOA, saying Riyadh and Tel Aviv are the last ones to have any right to comment on nuclear commitments.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman dismissed the Saudi concerns about an alleged Iranian violation of the 2015 nuclear deal.

Saudi Arabia and the Zionist regime are probably the last ones to have any right to make comments on the subjects relating to nuclear commitment, Khatibzadeh added.

Pointing to Saudi Arabia and Israel's serious opposition to the settlement of disputes over Iran's nuclear program, the spokesman said, "They have not hidden and would not hide such opposition. Such comments are much more ridiculous than being worth response."

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Khatam-al Anbiya Headquarters Breaks Total Co. Oil Record



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - The head of Khatam-al Anbiya Construction Headquarters said while Iran is under the most severe sanctions, it is getting ready to put the NGL project west of Karun in operation. With such an achievement, French oil company Total's record in the Iranian oil industry will be broken.

Saeed Mohammad announced yesterday that after collecting petroleum gases in the west of Karun called NGL Karun, the gases obtained would be consumed in the houses in industrial sectors. He said: "In addition to preventing environmental problems, this measure has an annual income of about \$ 500 million for the country."

Mohammad added: "At the same time, with the operation of the project, the record of the world-famous and large oil company, Total, which was active in the country in previous years, has been broken."

He further said that Total Company in one of the previous projects in south of Iran set 3 percent record for monthly progress and for years it was shown as an important event and achievement and the company's speed in the operation was talk of the town but Khatam-al Anbiya Headquarters despite the harshest cruel sanctions and in a super oil project had a 3.5 percent monthly progress which is a new record in the national oil industry. Mohammad reiterated that this proves the technical capability and determination of the domestic experts are above the foreign contractors.

The commander of the headquarters noted that the project of collecting petroleum gases in West Karoun known as NGL Karoun, is a super oil project that by its operationalizing, adding that the extracted gases from the oil wells would be converted into the usable gases in the urban gas network and raw materials of the petrochemical industries while they were burned in the past and polluted the environment.

Mohammad noted that the project was launched in line with Supreme Leader's order and it will continue with full speed to be completed.

He said it is expected the first phase of this super project to be operationalized by the yearend which will lead to considerable forex revenues and creation of jobs for the youths and domestic experts in the year of surge in the production.

Europe's Pushback of Migrants "Shameful"

GENEVA (Dispatches) - The UN refugee chief on Monday lambasted countries which close their doors to desperate migrants and Europe's "shameful" refusal to allow migrants stranded at sea to disembark quickly.

Filippo Grandi, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said migrants and refugees around the world were continuing to take dangerous routes towards safety and opportunity. The solution for their destination countries, Grandi told the opening of the United Nations Refugee Agency's main annual meeting, "cannot be to close the door".

"We cannot allow xenophobic reactions, only meant to draw facile consensus and electoral votes, to shape responses to challenges that are complex, but manageable." He warned of "the dangerous lines of thinking emerging in some of the world's richest countries -- 'externalizing' asylum beyond a country's borders -- violate international law, put the lives of the most vulnerable in jeopardy and constitute precedents which threaten asylum globally."

In particular, he highlighted the case of 27 migrants stranded in the Mediterranean Sea for nearly 40 days on a Danish freighter before it was finally permitted to dock in Italy earlier this month. "States failed to live up to their responsibilities. As a European, I find it shameful that it took more than one month to disembark just 27 people."

The Italian stressed that "people will continue to flee unless the root causes of their flight are solved."

"Reducing search and rescue capacity, or impeding those who engage to save others, or pushing back people without due process, will not stop people from moving; it will only lead to more deaths and the further erosion of refugee protection." Grandi meanwhile welcomed the European Commission's recent proposal for a new Pact on Migration and Asylum, calling it "a unique opportunity... to set out clearly how responsibilities will be shared".

In an address colored by the complexities of the Covid-19 pandemic, Grandi also voiced "deep disappointment" at the low numbers of refugees being resettled from precarious situations to third countries. "In 2019, fewer than 64,000 refugees were resettled -- less than one quarter of one percent of the world's refugees, in a constantly declining trend," he said.

The United States, which traditionally has resettled the most refugees, has slashed those numbers under President Donald Trump, offering to take in a record low of just 15,000 refugees next year -- down from more than 100,000 under Trump's predecessor Barack Obama.

Grandi also warned of the deteriorating situation in Africa's Sahel.

He said he had recently visited the region, which he described as "the theatre of one of the most worrying situations -- a political, security and humanitarian crisis which has displaced millions." "Few situations have shocked me as much -- the violence, the brutality, including horrifying stories of gruesome murders of parents in front of their children." In the past year alone, more than 600,000 people have been forced to flee their homes in the region, thousands of schools have been destroyed and thousands of women raped, Grandi said.

"We need to restore a sense of urgency in the Sahel response," he insisted.

COVID-19 Death Toll Spikes in Iran

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Health Ministry spokeswoman Sima Sadat Lari said on Monday that some 235 more Iranians have died from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) over the past 24 hours.

The health ministry spokeswoman said that with the 235 new deaths the country's total COVID-19 death toll mounted to 27,192.

Some 3,902 new cases of infection with the COVID-19 were found over the past 24 hours, some 1,953 of whom have been hospitalized, Sadat Lari said.

She said that a total of 475,674 Iranians have been confirmed infected with the COVID-19, some 392,293 of whom have been recovered or discharged from the hospitals.

Some 4,167 other COVID-19 patients are in critical conditions and are being treated in intensive care units, the spokeswoman said.

Iran Prepares Detailed Plan to End Karabakh Fighting

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran Saeed Khatibzadeh says Tehran has prepared a plan with details in order to resolve the armed clashes between the Republic of Azerbaijan and Armenia and persuade the warring sides to launch political talks.

Speaking at a weekly press conference on Monday, the Foreign Ministry spokesman reiterated that Iran is ready to use all of its good offices to end the fighting between Baku and Yerevan over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region.

"We once again stress the need to respect Azerbaijan's territorial integrity and the withdrawal of forces from the occupied cities, and underline that the military clashes must stop as soon as possible in order to start inclusive political talks, which should be time-bound, between the two sides," he noted, adding that Iran has prepared a plan with details within the framework of those purposes.

He also said the Iranian initiative will be pursued in consultation with the Republic of Azerbaijan, Armenia, the regional governments, and the neighboring countries.

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End of Arms Embargo To Help Boost Regional Stability

TEHRAN (MNA) – An Iranian lawmaker says the expiration of the arms embargo on the Islamic Republic later in October will help push forward the efforts toward maintaining the regional stability.

"Iran always seeks to strengthen peace, stability and security in the region, and the expiration of the arms embargo will have a great impact in this regard," Yaghoob Rezazadeh, a member of the National Security and Foreign Policy Commission of the Parliament, said yesterday.

He added that Iran has always had a "brotherly approach" toward the world countries, especially the regional states, noting that the ability to boost its defense might is a priority to help maintain peace in the region.

"Our country must be strong in terms of defense and military, because the more defensive power we have, the more we can create deterrence against the evil plans of the enemies."

"Westerners are seeking to spread Iranophobia, while they have imposed an arms embargo on Iran for years, and are selling their worn-out weapons to the Arab states of the Persian Gulf region under the pretext of ensuring their security." Under the 2015 nuclear deal that Iran struck with six major powers - the United Kingdom, China, France, Germany, Russia, and the US -- a five-year UN conventional arms embargo on Tehran is set to expire on October 18.



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Rouhani Vows to Continue Services to Nomads, Villagers

TEHRAN (MNA) – In his remarks on Monday, Iranian President Rouhani announced that his administration will go on providing the country's villagers and Nomads with its services by the last day of its tenure.

He made the remarks in the opening ceremony and operation of national projects in rural and nomadic areas, which was held in the form of a video conference.

Rouhani informed that by the end of his tenure, i.e. June 2021, 25,000 kilometers of rural roads will be opened. By the end of the twelfth government, the majority of the country's villagers will have access to electricity and will get connected to the domestic gas network, he added.

Grand Marjas Concern Originates From Popular Nature of Shia Authority

TEHRAN (IP)- President Hassan Rouhani on Sunday appreciated the grand Marjas over their supports for the eleventh and twelfth governments and named them as the intellectual and spiritual supporters of the government saying their concern over people's problems come from the popular base of the Shia authority.

Speaking at the cabinet meeting on Sunday evening which has been chaired by President Hassan Rouhani, the First Vice President presented a report to the Cabinet on his contact with the grand Marjas and the representative of Ayatollah Sistani.

Eshaq Jahangiri, while extending the Grand Marjas' greeting to the President, expressed their concern about inflation and the people's livelihood problems.

The President stated that the Marjas have always supported the eleventh and twelfth governments and have been the intellectual and spiritual support of the government, and said: "We consider the concern of those noble figures about the economic situation to be right and we consider it to be due to the popular base of the Shia authority."



Rouhani added: "I assure the grand Marjas that the government is doing its best to foil the evil plans of the enemies aimed at annoying the government and the honorable nation of Iran and to reduce the suffering of our dear people."

On the occasion of the Elderly Week, the Minister of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare presented a report to the Council of Ministers and the growing trend of the aging phenomenon in the country.

The members of the Council of Ministers, while thanking all private and public centers for caring for the elderly and preventing the spread of the Coronavirus, emphasized the importance of continuing the health controls of the centers.

Tehran, Moscow Discuss Regional Issues



TEHRAN (MNA) – Majlis Speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf and the Chairman of Russia's State Duma Vyacheslav Viktorovich Volodin in a telephone conversation on Monday held talks on bilateral ties and regional issues.

In this conversation, Qalibaf, who had previously underlined the active follow-up of the mechanism of the Iran-Russia Joint High Parliamentary Commission, said the Iranian parliament is ready to fully implement the agreements between the two countries.

He added that the continuation of constructive talks and consultations and active cooperation of the parliaments of Iran and Russia will play an important role in strengthening and consolidating friendly relations in various regional and international arenas.

As reported, the conference of Speakers of the Parliaments of Russia, Iran, Afghanistan, Turkey, and China on Counter-Terrorism is to be held in Sochi in May 2021.

Back on August 1 and in his meeting with visiting Chairman of the Russian Duma's Foreign Affairs Committee Leonid Slutsky, Qalibaf said that comprehensive cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation is expected to be enhanced.

Iran Closes Iraq Borders To Arbaeen Pilgrims

TEHRAN (IFP)- Iran's land and air borders will be closed to pilgrims who intend to go to the Iraqi holy city of Karbala on Arbaeen, the fortieth day after the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (PBUH), in order to stem the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

The Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization urged fellow countrymen not to pay attention to rumors suggesting borders will be open to pilgrims.

"In order to stop the spread of coronavirus and protect people's health, all land and air borders with Iraq will be closed to pilgrims [going to Iraq] on Arbaeen or other occasions until further notice," said deputy head of the organization Sohbattollah Rahmani.

"As announced by the Iraqi government, it will not allow any Iranian pilgrims to enter the country, either, through any borders," he added.

He also warned against plots by the enemies which seek to create tension on Iran-Iraq borders by urging Iranians to go to borders on a pilgrimage to Karbala.

Each year, millions of Shites flock to the Iraqi city of Karbala, where the holy shrine of Imam Hussein is located, to perform mourning rites 40 days after Ashura.

Iran Passive Defense Organization Role Vital in Foiling New Threats

TEHRAN (MNA) – Deputy Coordinator of the General Staff of Iran's Armed Forces described Passive Defense Organization as a vital organ due to its crucial role in preventing the country against the unexpected and new cyber threats.

An introducing ceremony was held on Sunday for General Mohsen Sasani, who has been appointed as Deputy Head of Iran's Passive Defense Organization by the Chief of Staff for the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The ceremony held in the presence of General Ali Abdullahi, Deputy Coordinator of the General Staff of Iran's Armed Forces and Head of Iran's Passive Defense Organization.

In this ceremony, General Abdullahi made some remarks over the crucial status of Passive Defense in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Referring to the issue of passive defense as one of the vital missions of the armed forces, he stressed, "In this regard, promoting resilience and protecting critical infrastructure of the country are considered as the strategic issues in the country's defense system."

"In order to face new cyber and electronic threats in the future wars, we need to adopt new approaches and strategies", he said and added, "In this regard, General Staff of the Armed Forces of Iran attaches importance over Passive Defense Organization due to its crucial role of preventing the country against the unexpected and new threats."

Elsewhere in his remarks, he referred to the Imposed War (1980-1988) during which Iran was lacking the Passive Defense Organization, adding, "Today, however, after the establishment of Passive Defense Organization, Iran has achieved great results in the field of passive defense issues and countering potential threats."

President Calls for Closer Ties With Kuwait

TEHRAN (IFP) - Iran's president has congratulated Kuwait's new emir, Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah, on assuming the position following the demise of Sheikh Sabah.

In a message on Sunday, President Hassan Rouhani expressed hope the two sides will continue to enhance their relations on all fronts.

"I am confident that in light of Your Excellency's ... wise leadership, we will, like in the past, witness ever-increasing enhancement of cordial and brotherly relations between the two countries as well as the promotion of stability and security in the region," said the president in his message.

"I ask God Almighty to bestow health and success upon Your Excellency and grant dignity and prosperity

to Kuwait's Muslim people," he said.

Earlier in the day, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif travelled to Kuwait on behalf of President Rouhani to offer sympathy to the Kuwaiti nation and government over the demise of the country's former emir, Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah.

During the visit, Foreign Minister Zarif held meetings with Sheikh Nawaf, the new emir of Kuwait, and Foreign Minister Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammed Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

In the meetings, the Iranian top diplomat expressed Iran's sympathy and condolences over the loss.

He also offered congratulations on the new emir's appointment, and underlined the Islamic Republic's support for the Arab country.

Gov't to Increase Nuclear Power Capacity to 3GW

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Minister of Energy Reza Ardakanian says electricity generation through a nuclear power plant located on the Persian Gulf coast would triple to reach 3 gigawatts (GW).

Ardakanian said on Sunday that using nuclear power is a major part of his ministry's plans to diversify energy sources in Iran.

He said two additional 1GW units in Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant are being constructed to help reach the objective.

The minister said, however, that financial issues had slowed the work on the two electricity stations that are operated by the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI).

He said the Energy Ministry still counts on many benefits of using the nuclear power, including its clean environmental nature.

Russia's Rosatom energy firm has been contributing to the construction of two new nuclear power plants which according to timetable released previously would come on line until 2027.

Iran has expanded its electricity generation capacity in recent years to reach nearly 86 GW. The country relies on gas-fired thermal power plants for a bulk of its energy needs although the government has been speeding up plans to diversify production sources.

Iran has been fully complying with international rules while expanding its nuclear power generation capacity. The efforts has also been in line with a nuclear agreement reached with world powers in 2015 despite the fact that the United States has withdrawn from the deal and imposed sanctions on Tehran.

New Ocean-Going Vessels To Join Iran's IRGC Fleet

TEHRAN (MNA) – The commander of the IRGC's second naval zone announced that new Iranian ocean-going vessels will join the IRGC navy fleet to operate in the open waters and oceans in the near future.

In a press conference on Monday, Second Brigadier General Ramezan Zirahi noted that IRGC naval equipment in terms of vessels, drones and missiles is up to date.

He further noted that any miscalculation made by the enemy will be responded strongly.

"Last week, 188 drones joined the IRGC Navy, which is considered a significant and special capacity," he added.

He went on to say that IRGC's reconnaissance and attack drones are unique in West Asia and the forces have a variety of rockets, missile launchers, coast-to-sea missiles, and other advanced military equipment along with experienced manpower.

According to Zirahi, all movements of the enemies in the Persian Gulf are monitored by the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Iranian Prisoners Can Now Meet Their Families Online

TEHRAN (IFP) - For the first time in Iran, a prison in the southern city of Bandar Abbas has made it possible for inmates to contact their families and loved ones online.

An electronic meeting hall was inaugurated in Bandar Abbas in a Sunday ceremony attended by the head of the provincial Justice Department, the province's prosecutor and the director general in charge of the province's prisons.

"In line with the implementation of macropolicies of the judiciary, ... an electronic meeting hall has become operational at Bandar Abbas Central Prison," said Ali Salehi, the director general of the province's Justice Department. Iranian Inmates Can Now Meet Their Families Online 2

"The hall contains an operating unit which monitors electronic meetings as well as 10 meeting rooms for prisoners along with audio and video online transmission equipment," he added, according to the Judiciary's official news agency Mizan.

"The initiative conforms the new judicial regulations and ... the Code of Criminal Procedure," the official noted.

He said the move comes to reduce problems and costs of prisoners and their families, especially at a time of the coronavirus outbreak. Iranian Inmates Can Now Meet Their Families Online

"This is the first time that the move is being done in the country," he added.

"So far, three types of meetings used to be held in prisons: meeting in person, meeting in a booth and meeting in private. Now, the electronic (video) meeting has become available as a new form of meeting and, as a privilege, will be granted to inmates who have actively participated in rehab and educational programs of prisons and who have good behavior," he said.

He noted electronic meetings come at no expense for prisoners and their families.

NIDC Inks 5 Deals for Lending Drilling Rigs

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

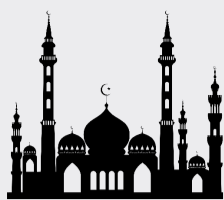
TEHRAN – National Iranian Drilling Company (NIDC), a subsidiary of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), signed deals to lend 16 drilling rigs to five domestic companies that are working on development projects of the country's oilfields.

According to Reza Dehqan, the National Iranian Oil Company's deputy director for development and engineering affairs, the mentioned deals were signed with Global Petrotech Kish Company, Petro Iran Development Company, Pasargad Energy Development Company, Qeshm Oil and Energy Industries, and Petrotenco Company.

The drilling rigs will be used in the development projects of Zilaei, Mansourabad, Siahmakan, Ahvaz 1, and 4, as well as Maroun 5 and 12 oil fields, Dehqan said.

Back in August, Iranian Offshore Oil Company (IOOC) and the National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC) signed 13 deals worth €1.527 billion with domestic companies to add 185,000 barrels per day to the country's oil production capacity.





PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	11:52
■ Evening (Maghreb)	17:59
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:41
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:04

44. Hast thou not turned Thy vision to those who were given a portion of the Book? they traffic in error, and wish that ye should lose the right path.
45. But Allah hath full knowledge of your enemies: Allah is enough for a protector, and Allah is enough for a Helper.
Surah 4. Women (44 - 45)

Karabakh Conflict Should Not Overshadow Iran-Armenia Trade

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Head of Iran-Armenia Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry says while Armenia is turning to become one of Iran's major trade partners, we should not let this economic and trade relation be overshadowed by the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute.

According to the public relations of the chamber, Hervik Yarianian referred to the trade volume of Iran and Armenia, saying that the trade volume has almost been doubled in the past year and has increased from \$300m to \$600m. He also stipulated that this achievement has been obtained since Iran's joining to the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) as an observer member and the figure would definitely grow manifold as well it would development economic relations with other members of the union.

He then pointed to the political and military dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan, adding that it should not affect Iran and Armenia's bilateral trade. He said while the Islamic Republic of Iran as an impartial country tries to mediate between Armenia and Azerbaijan in order to prevent adding the fuel to the fire on dispute, we should not harm the country's impartiality and peace-seeking attitude with small mistakes.



Yarianian then deplored that some of exported trade consignments to Armenia have been delayed unreasonably at the border of both countries, noting that the exported goods are mostly of the textile commodities whose trade have not been banned by both countries.

He reiterated that one should not forget that in all countries in the region when the trend of exports of Iranian goods is halted, this is Turkey which immediately penetrates in that market and tightens the noose around Iranian exporters.

Yarianian expressed hope that the related bodies would immediately step in to resolve the current problem at the border of Iran and Armenia. He reiterated that while the hostile sanctions have affected Iran's foreign trade, the country should not easily miss the trade opportunity with EEU members especially with Armenia.

Iran Needs to Double Its Exports to Meet Its Forex Demands



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Chairman of Iran-China Joint Chamber of Commerce Majid-Reza Hariri says if Iran cannot double its current export level in the upcoming years, the country will face with foreign currency crisis.

Speaking to ILNA, Hariri said that currently the condition is in a way that the government can do nothing for two reasons, adding that the first reason is that sanctions have led to the slump in Iran's oil revenues and the second reason is the coronavirus pandemic. He noted that the virus pandemic has affected non-oil exports comparing to the previous years, reiterating that even if the no-oil exports had not faced with slump, the country would still have faced with shortage of the forex.

Hariri noted that in those years that the country had good forex revenues, it used to sell oil worth \$120b annually and it had non-oil export worth \$30b which made the total revenues some \$15b but in recent years and due to sanctions and the slump in the oil price, Iran's oil revenues have considerably dropped.

On the probable forex revenues of the country this year, Hariri said that it is expected optimistically the country's oil revenue to be around \$5 and the statistics for the first half of the year show that the country's non-oil exports would be around \$30b while the figure was \$40b last year.

Hariri added that so this year and at the best, the country would have forex revenues between 35b to \$40b while the country in its most economized condition needs \$50b.

He urged the country to continue the resilient and economized policies until the end of the year because country's revenues and expenditures do not match.

He reiterated that if the country does not increase its exports and does not double it, it would face forex crisis.

Hariri noted that due to sanctions, the government is unable to do anything, adding that if the country puts behind this year with this condition, the next year the condition will be tougher.

Kenyan Envoy Calls for Cooperation With ESCO

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Kenyan Ambassador to Tehran Benedict Lukorito Watamba paid a visit to the pavilion of Esfahan Steel Company (ESCO) in the 9th International Exhibition on Investment Opportunities in Iran's Mines and Mines Industries which was held in Isfahan and during his visit called for cooperation with ESCO.

In the meeting with some ESCO officials, Watamba termed Iran an industrial and developed state, adding that due to the industrial capabilities of the Islamic Republic of Iran and rich mines in Kenya, both countries can increase their cooperation.

The diplomat added that Kenya is rich in having iron ore mines and expressed hope that Kenya would take advantage of Iran's experience for construction of steel and mine extraction plants.



He also pointed to the good relation between Iran and African states and emphasized that African states especially Kenya have good relations with Iran.

On the steel products of Iran, he said according to information he has obtained, steel products of Iranian plants especially ESCO are high quality ones and expressed hope that these products would be used in construction

industries, dam building and other industries of Kenya.

Meanwhile deputy head of the public relations of ESCO Mr. Majid Moradian, for his part, highlighted the process of production and quality of the products in ESCO and said ESCO, as the first long steel structure producing company in the West Asia, exports its products to five continents in the world.

He then pointed to the production of rails in ESCO and said the rails produced in the company are based on the international standards and they compete with their European rivals.

He then referred to the capabilities of experts of steel industry in Iran for investment and cooperation in the iron ore sector and construction of steel industries in Kenya. He then stipulated that he would convey Kenyan ambassador's request to the senior officials of ESCO.

Iran, Turkey Resume Two Flights Daily

TEHRAN (MNA) -Deputy Ministry of Roads and Chief Executive of Iran Civil Aviation Organization (CAO) revealed that Iranian and Turkish Airlines have resumed two flights daily.

"With the coordination made between Civil Aviation Organizations of Iran and Turkey, the two countries resumed their flights in a limited way by fully observing of health protocols and guidelines due to the coronavirus global pandemic, COVID-19," Touraj Dehghani Zanganeh said.

He went on to say that one daily flight will be conducted by one of the Iranian airlines and also one daily flight by Turkish Airlines in full compliance with the preannounced health instructions.

The resumption of flights has been done in order to eliminate some monopolies, keep ticket fares at low price and help passengers on this route, he added.

CAO chief emphasized that Turkish flights will be carried out by fully observing of health protocols and guidelines due to the spread of coronavirus pandemic.



COVID-19 Postpones Iran Oil Exhibition

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh in a message in his twitter account announced that 25th International Oil, Gas, Refining, and Petrochemical Exhibition has been postponed due to the spike in the Coronavirus (COVID-19) virus.

In his message, he wrote that the ministry was to hold the exhibition on October 12-15 but due to the current condition in Tehran and the spike of COVID-19, it decided to postpone the event t another date.

Mr. Zanganeh noted that the ministry has observed the health ministry's directives and restrictions regarding the Coronavirus and since the health of participants in the exhibition is the priority, the oil ministry decided to postpone this big oil event.

He added that since the country is involved in an economic war, the oil ministry was determined to display the capabilities of domestic industries related to the oil industry and it will reschedule the date of the event to another time which will be announced soon.



Labor Ministry, Private Sector Discuss Facilitating Business Environment

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iranian Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare Ministry hosted a meeting with the representatives of the country's private sector to discuss the improvement of the business environment for the private sector, the portal of Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) reported.

The meeting was attended by the Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare Minister Mohammad Shariatmadari, the deputies of the ministry, and the heads and board members of TCCIMA and Iran Chambers of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), as well as the head of the Social Security Organization.

The event was mainly focused on resolving challenges and issues between the private sector companies and the Social Security Organization, and after comprehensive discussions on the matter, the labor minister offered solutions to address the mentioned issues.

In the meeting, the two sides also agreed that every month a meeting would be held between the Labor Ministry and the country's Chambers of Commerce to follow up on the issues raised in this meeting.

At the end of the gathering, it was decided that the second round of talks between the mentioned parties would be held in the next Iranian calendar month (begins on October 22) with the aim of addressing specific issues related to the improvement of the country's business environment.

Director of ICFF Puts Emphasis on Finding Solutions for Inevitable Concerns

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - The director of the 33rd International Children Film Festival (ICFF) announced, "Under no circumstances has Iran ever forgotten about taking cultural actions and currently, Iran is seeking new ways for cultural existence in the new world. We will do our best to turn threats into opportunities through online cultural exchanges in the virtual world."

According to the 33rd ICFF Public Relations Office, Alireza Tabesh talked about the special circumstances and the new approaches that should be taken to execute this edition of the festival and said, "Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, and before receiving the call regarding this edition of the festival, the online execution of the 33rd ICFF was emphasized. Eventually, it was determined that most of the sections would be executed online, and only some of the feature films would be screened at the House of the Festival with the attendance of the cast and crew and film experts."

He referred to the screening schedule of the festival, and added, "Short films, animations, feature documentaries will be shown on the selected platforms for the registered audiences and the jury members. It is worth adding that screening the works on online platforms requires the permission of the filmmakers, and nobody has been forced to take part in the online execution of the festival."

Tabesh added, "Due to the online execution of this edition of the festival, we have provided the jury members with links to watch the films that have been selected for the competition section. We have also asked for the permission of the filmmakers, whose works are going to be screened via online platforms."

The director of the 33rd ICFF expressed hope that this edition of the festival will be run in the best way possible and it will provide them with valuable experiences regarding the execution of online festivals.

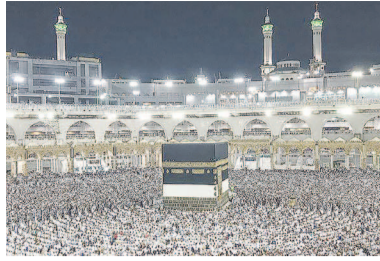


Saudi Arabia Resumes Umrah After 6-Month Hiatus

MECCA (Dispatches) - Saudi Arabian authorities on Sunday re-opened the Muslim holy places for Umrah pilgrimage after a six-month hiatus due to the novel coronavirus.

Following coronavirus protocols, the first batch of Umrah pilgrims arrived in the wee hours of Sunday, said the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah on Twitter.

Without giving further details, the ministry shared photos of the visitors entering the Grand Mosque in Mecca.



Paris Passes Into Red Zone As COVID-19 Numbers Surge

PARSIS (Dispatches) - Paris and the Ile-de-France region were put on maximum coronavirus alert late Sunday with more restrictions to come.

The capital is the latest major city to be placed at the level, one of three the Health Ministry established last week to determine the risk level associated with the spread of the virus in any particular region or department.

The office of Prime Minister Jean Castex said additional restrictive measures would be announced as of Tuesday, and a press conference was to be late yesterday with Health Minister Olivier Veran to make the announcement.



Azerbaijan Says No End to Fighting Until Armenia Sets Pullout Timetable



BAKU (Reuters) - Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev demanded on Sunday that Armenia set a timetable for withdrawing from the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding Azeri territories, and said Azerbaijan would not cease military action until that happened.

In a televised address to the nation, Aliyev said Azeri forces were advancing in a week-long offensive to retake lands that they lost to ethnic Armenians in the 1990s.

"Azerbaijan has one condition, and that is the liberation of its territories," he said. "Nagorno-Karabakh is the territory of Azerbaijan. We must return and we shall return."

"My condition is the following: let them withdraw their troops, and the confrontation will be stopped, but this should not be in words, but in deeds," he added.

He said the international community had failed for three decades to enforce U.N. resolutions or put pressure on Armenia to return Azeri territories. The content and tone of Aliyev's message made clear that Azerbaijan would not entertain calls for an immediate ceasefire, as Russia, the United States and European Union have urged.

Speaking immediately after Aliyev's speech, Armenian Defence Ministry official Artsrun Hovhannisyan said: "I don't think that there is any risk for Yerevan (the Armenian capital), but anyway we are in war."

The clashes are the worst since the 1990s, when some 30,000 people were killed and are spreading beyond the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave. They have raised international concern about stability in the South Caucasus, where pipelines carry Azeri oil and gas to world markets.

The conflict threatens to drag in other regional powers as Azerbaijan is supported by Turkey, while Armenia has a defence pact with Russia.

Hundreds of people have been killed in the past week of fighting between Azerbaijan and ethnic Armenian forces, including more than 40 civilians.

Earlier on Sunday, Azerbaijan said Armenian forces had fired rockets at its second city of Ganja, killing one civilian and wounding 32, and also launched a missile attack on the Azeri industrial city of Mingachevir. Azerbaijan threatened to retaliate by destroying military targets inside Armenia.

Both Armenia's and the breakaway region's defence ministries said they denied the Azeri claim of the Armenian attack on Mingachevir in Azerbaijan.

Turkey's Foreign Ministry said: "The attacks of Armenia targeting the civilians in Ganja...are a new manifestation of Armenia's unlawful attitude. We condemn these attacks."

Armenia denied it had directed fire "of any kind" towards Azerbaijan. The leader of Nagorno-Karabakh said his forces had targeted a military airbase in Ganja but later stopped firing in order to avoid civilian casualties.

Trump Back in Hospital After Drive to Greet Supporters

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - U.S. President Donald Trump, who is in hospital with COVID-19, was driven outside the facility on Sunday so he could wave to a group of supporters on the street in a move critics derided as a dangerous political stunt.

Video showed Trump, wearing a black mask, waving from the back seat of a black four-wheel drive with two men - also masked in the front seats. "President Trump took a short, last-minute motorcade ride to wave to his supporters outside and has now returned to the Presidential Suite inside Walter Reed," White House spokesman Judd Deere said in a statement. "Appropriate measures" had been taken, he added.

Trump was admitted to Walter Reed, a military hospital near Washington, DC on Friday shortly after he was diagnosed with COVID-19. The 74-year-old's doctors said he has been given oxygen, as well as experimental treatments - which are usually used for people who have more severe cases of the disease, including the steroid dexamethasone.



Belarus Police Fire Water Cannon, Detain Protesters

KIEV (Dispatches) - BBelarusian police on Sunday used water cannon to disperse protesters in the capital Minsk as tens of thousands marched to demand the release of political prisoners.

Thousands of demonstrators took to the streets despite warnings they could face prison. The opposition movement calling for an end to strongman Alexander Lukashenko's rule has kept up a wave of large-scale demonstrations since his controversial election win on August 9, with around 100,000 or more people rallying every Sunday. Ahead of the march, the government sought to complicate media coverage of opposition rallies against Lukashenko's regime, withdrawing the accreditation of all foreign journalists. On Sunday, internet and mobile phone services were disrupted.

But pictures and videos posted on social media showed huge crowds gathering in Minsk and protesters marching towards a detention centre, with some carrying portraits of victims of police abuse.

Other protesters waved red-and-white opposition flags and beat drums.

"Set them free!" demonstrators chanted after they reached the notorious jail on Okrestin Street which some have dubbed a "torture chamber".

After the march had begun in the centre of the capital, police confirmed they had moved in on the protest, which like others was considered an illegal gathering.

Interior ministry spokeswoman Olga Chemodanova told AFP that water cannon had been used in Minsk and that there had been detentions, but provided no further details. Rights group Viasna said more than 100 demonstrators were detained in Minsk and elsewhere. Protester Natalia Samotyia said she saw police beat up protesters. "I stood on a bridge and heard people's terrible screams," she told AFP.

Another protester, Yakov Baranovsky, said police blasted him and another demonstrators with water cannon, forcing them to seek shelter. "Everything has been done to make people disperse," the 51-year-old engineer said.

Belarusians this week received official text messages saying they could face criminal responsibility for taking part in "unsanctioned" rallies. "Do not make a mistake!" the interior ministry said.

Pilgrims Flood Iraq's Karbala for Arbaceen

KARBALA (Dispatches) - Tens of thousands of worshippers have been flooding into Iraq's holy city of Karbala despite the Covid-19 pandemic for the Shiite Muslim pilgrimage of Arbaceen, one of the world's biggest religious gatherings.

Arbaceen marks the end of the 40-day mourning period for the seventh century killing of Imam Hussein (A), Prophet Mohammed (PBUH)'s grandson, by followers of Caliph Yazid, and falls on Thursday.

His martyrdom, a seminal moment in Islam's Sunni-Shiite schism, was mourned this year at the end of August during Ashura ceremonies in Shiite-majority Iraq and other countries with Shiite communities.

But unlike previous years, Iraq had closed its borders to non-residents, allowing only residents to take part in Ashura.

Iraq's borders opened for Arbaceen but with restrictions on Arbaceen arrivals, in a bid to stem the spread of coronavirus.

The virus has hit Iraq hard, with more than 375,000 people infected and almost 9,500 deaths.

In 2019, an estimated 14 million Shiite pilgrims flooded Iraq to attend Arbaceen, including about two million from neighbouring Iran.

This year, however, only 1,500 pilgrims per country are being allowed to fly into Iraq, while Iran has been authorised to send an additional 2,500 overland.

"Every day, between six and 10 planes land and more are coming in the days ahead," said Issa al-Shemmari, airport director in Najaf, another holy city south of Karbala.

In keeping with tradition, Iraqis have been walking to Karbala for Arbaceen from all over the country.

On roads to the city, "mawakib" tents have been erected to provide pilgrims with free food, drink and accommodation.

"We ate along the way and were able to disinfect ourselves," pilgrim Ali Hadi told AFP, on arrival in Karbala from the southern city of Basra.

Only few of the pilgrims around him wore mouth and nose coverings despite constant appeals from authorities and social distancing was being widely ignored.



Assad Says Russian Bases in His Country Keep Balance of Power in Region

AMMAN (Reuters) -

Syrian President Bashar al Assad said the continued presence of Russia's major naval and air bases in his country help counter the influence of Western powers in the region as the battle to crush insurgents was winding down.

In an interview with Russia's Ministry of Defence TV channel Zvezda on the fifth anniversary of Moscow's intervention in Syria that tipped the conflict in his favour, Assad said Russia's two main bases were important to counter the West's military presence in the region. "This global military balance needs Russia's role...this needs (military) bases...we benefit from this," Assad said adding Syria needed such a presence that his military commanders say countered Washington's dominance in the region. Alongside the Hmeimim base, from which Russia launches air strikes in support of Assad, Moscow also controls the Tartus naval facility in Syria, its only naval foothold in the Mediterranean, in use since the days of the Soviet Union.

Russia launched air strikes in Syria in 2015 and began cementing its permanent military presence in 2017, following a deal with the government in Damascus. A Russian government document published last August showed that Syrian authorities have agreed to give Russia additional land and coastal waters in order to expand its military air base at Hmeimim. Assad said his army, before Moscow's military intervention, had been facing a "dangerous situation" with an armed opposition directly funded and equipped by Washington and other Western powers, alongside Saudi Arabia and Qatar who had seized main cities and towns.

Assad has been able with Moscow's massive aerial power and Iranian-backed militias' support to regain most of the territory he lost in a decade long conflict.

Washington and backers of the Syrian opposition say the Russian and Syrian bombing of opposition-held areas amounted to war crimes and were responsible for the displacement of millions and the death of thousands of civilians.

Moscow and Damascus deny indiscriminate bombing of civilians and say they are fighting to rid the country of Islamist militants.





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Fully Furn

Parsian

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Vietnam, Germany Look to Boost Economic Cooperation

HANOI (VNA) - A workshop to promote economic cooperation between Vietnam and Germany took place in Hanoi on October 3, bringing together representatives from around 200 enterprises of the two nations.

The event was jointly held by radio The Voice of Vietnam (VOV), the Vietnam Association of Small and Medium Enterprises (VINASME), and Huong Sen

Group in the framework of the Vietnam – Germany Culture Festival 2020.

It is a particularly important event in the context that the European Union – Vietnam Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA) came into effect from August 2020 and the two sides' enterprises are fighting to overcome difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.



ADB Approves \$110m Grant To Enhance Power Supply In Afghanistan

KABUL (Dispatches) - The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a \$110 million grant to boost power supply and strengthen Afghanistan's energy sector by improving its sustainability and promoting cross-border trade in energy.

The project will help address Afghanistan's chronic power shortage by immediately doubling the volume of power imports and ensuring long-term cost-competitive electricity supply. It will facilitate the Afghan system's first parallel (synchronous) operation with the Uzbek system and the Central Asia Power System (CAPS). Once complete, the project will provide improved access to customers and facilitate 500,000 new connections to households, commercial entities, and industrial customers.

"Demand for electricity is growing rapidly in Afghanistan and is essential for the country's economic growth," said ADB Energy Specialist Nana Gurgenzidze. "The project will help provide reliable and affordable electricity to households and businesses by strengthening the grid and increasing power import capacity by 900 megawatts, with year-round firm energy imports of 3,000 gigawatt-hours."

Afghanistan relies on energy imports from neighboring countries to meet its domestic demand. Despite significant progress since 2002, only about 34% of the population has access to grid-connected electricity.

The project will finance the construction of 201 kilometers of a 500-kilovolt overhead transmission line from the Surkhan substation in Uzbekistan to the Khwaja-Alwan substation in Afghanistan—a key interconnection node to receive power from Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. It will also fund the expansion of a line bay, including associated equipment, at the Khwaja-Alwan substation. The project will allow Uzbek power into the Afghan grid under a 10-year power purchase and sales agreement signed in August 2020 by the Afghanistan and Uzbekistan governments.

Under the project, staff, including female engineers at the national power utility Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS), will be trained to manage cross-border power transfer and parallel operations, including emergency operation systems with CAPS.

The project is aligned with the government's priority programs in the energy sector, ADB's Strategy 2030, and the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program's Energy Strategy 2030. It is also aligned with ADB's Afghanistan Country Partnership Strategy, 2017–2021, which aims to prevent worsening poverty and establish a stronger foundation for inclusive and sustainable growth.

ADB's is one of Afghanistan's largest on-budget development partners in the energy sector with cumulative commitments of \$1.77 billion in grants since 2002. The project is financed from ADB's Special Funds resources and is part of an overall \$1.2 billion Energy Supply Improvement Investment Program (2015-2024).

Airbus Executive Says Aviation Outlook Worse Than Expected



BERLIN (Reuters) - The outlook for the aviation industry has deteriorated again due to rising coronavirus infections and renewed travel restrictions, Airbus chief operating officer Michael Schoellhorn was quoted as saying.

With air travel at a fraction of normal levels due to restrictions and travellers' fears related to the pandemic, airlines have slowed deliveries of new aircraft.

Airbus has said it needs to shed 15,000 posts worldwide.

In an interview with the Handelsblatt business daily, Schoellhorn said the situation in early autumn was worse than the company had expected in the summer, adding that the planned 15,000 job cuts would be the minimum.

As some Airbus factories were already underutilized before the pandemic, labour unions now fear that the management could decide to shut down entire locations.

At least for Germany, Schoellhorn ruled out such a move. "In terms of substance, I do not see any German locations at risk at the moment," he said.

Airbus chief executive Guillaume Faury said last month the planemaker would do its best to cut costs without resorting to compulsory redundancies, but it could not guarantee they won't happen.

In a letter to staff in September, Faury warned that Airbus may have to carry out compulsory layoffs after air travel failed to recover from the pandemic as quickly as anticipated.



Green Economic Recovery Will Create Jobs

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - The Managing Director of the IMF, Kristalina Georgieva, says the IMF's focus on a green global economic recovery would boost the creation of Jobs in climate resilience, reforestation, dealing with land degradation, improving infrastructure and renewable energy.

Georgieva disclosed this in an interview with Bloomberg BusinessWeek on Saturday.

Recall Nairametrics reported last month that the IMF said infrastructure is needed for a resilient economic growth in Africa post-covid-19, and in a scenario where large scale investments are needed, the focus needs to be smart, green and inclusive.

"This means moving towards other renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power. This shift will help reduce carbon emissions, spread electrification, and create jobs. In Kenya, the government increased access to electricity from 40 to 70% of the population in large part through the use of small, off-grid, solar-powered energy plants," the IMF said.

Georgieva told BusinessWeek that during the economic downturn caused by the pandemic, the IMF poured money into many sectors of the global economy, and with the rising recovery, the IMF would prioritize a definitive end to the health crisis everywhere to enable emerging economies trade with advanced economies and also move towards a green economic model, which is a job-rich model and can boost GDPs of nations.

"When we put the economy into a standstill, the right policy response was to support companies across the board. Central banks, financial authorities, and institutions like mine have poured resources so that there is a floor under the world economy. And at that stage of the emergency response to a very unusual crisis, it would be wrong to try to differentiate. You don't have the time. And you would do more harm than good if you differentiate," she said.

She continued, "We are now at the point where we are seeing the signs of recovery. That is moving us to a different phase where our advice from the fund is threefold: One, prioritize a definitive end to the health crisis everywhere. Even if advanced economies and some emerging-market economies revitalize themselves, if their trading partners are in trouble, that drags the world down. Two, start now thinking about how to gradually move support towards what you want to see in the future. Are jobs being protected? Are jobs being created? Now why is a green recovery very attractive? Because the green recovery can be a job-rich recovery."

She added that the green recovery will create jobs in climate resilience, reforestation, dealing with land degradation, improving infrastructure to withstand climate shocks, building installations as a lot of renewable energy projects create jobs.

She said that a green recovery focus would create income equality opportunities for the future, through investing "in people, investing in education, and investing in internet accessibility."

"One thing that I'm eager for the fund to play a role in is this combination between social safety nets and social safety ropes—provide incentives for people, especially young people, women, those that are most affected in this crisis. And it is great for the economy, it is also great for social cohesion," she said.

Finnish Consumers Gloomy About Economy

HELSINKI (Xinhua) -- Consumer confidence about Finland's economic situation dipped in September, although they still viewed their own financial situation as excellent, Statistics Finland reported.

According to the agency, the Finnish Consumer Confidence Indicator (CCI) stood at -5.9 in September, down from -5.1 in August and -1.6 in July, or -4.2 in September last year. The long-term average for the CCI is -1.8. The poll by the agency was based on interviews with 1,112 residents in September.

Consumers' views on economic development were still gloomy in September, said the agency. Of the four components of the CCI, only the opinions concerning consumers' own economy at present improved from August to September. Compared year-on-year, only expectations about Finnish economy in general improved slightly, while other CCI components changed for the worse in a year.

What's more, consumers' expectations concerning the development of the general unemployment situation dropped to an even gloomier level in September. Wage and salary earners as well as the self-employed experienced more unemployment threats.

However, consumers had slightly more intention of

spending money on durable goods in September than usual. They still considered their own financial situation to be excellent, stated Statistics Finland, noting that a record number of consumers were going to take out a loan in September. Consumers also had more plans of buying a dwelling than ever. In addition, many were considering renovating their dwelling and buying a car, said the agency.

Local commentators said the September CCI paradoxically combined decreased confidence in employment and an increase in consumer spending plans. Heidi Schauman, chief economist of Swedbank Finland told business daily Kauppalehti that low bank interest rates were the explanation, as they were making credits cheap.

Meanwhile, the Confederation of Industries said confidence in the business community remained largely at the levels of August, except a decline in the service sector. Its chief economist Sami Pakarinen said it appeared that the recovery of the Finnish economy was not continuing, at least temporarily. "While retail has been doing well so far, the worsened employment will impact and sales expectations deteriorated," Pakarinen said.

Nearly 7m Houses Sold in Turkey in Last 5 Years

TEHRAN (ANKARA (Dispatches) - Around 7 million houses have been sold in Turkey over the course of the last five years, Anadolu Agency (AA) reported Sunday.

According to the article, based on data from the Turkish Statistical Institute (TÜİK), locals bought 6.9 million houses while foreigners purchased 154,871 residences.

The data also showed that between September 2015 and 2020, the year 2017 saw the highest sales. In that year, 1.4 million houses were sold while the year 2015 saw 1.29 million residences being purchased.

The sales recorded an increase in 2016 as 1.34 million houses were bought.

The years 2018 and 2019 saw similar numbers of houses being purchased with 1.38 million and 1.35 million residences bought respectively.

As banks decreased their interest rates in 2019 prominently, 1.02 million homes switched owners in only a matter of eight months.

Istanbul, as the biggest city in Turkey, saw the highest house sales in the last five years, indicating a sale of 1.2 million residences being sold as Ankara followed with 720,124, Izmir with 412,488, Antalya with 313,735 and Bursa with 265,715.

Many Anatolian provinces have seen over 50,000 houses sold each in the last five years in metropolitan areas. Muğla, Diyarbakir and Denizli provinces were the top sellers.

Foreigner interest in Turkish homes increase

Foreigners have been interested in buying a property in Turkey for the last five years, as they purchased nearly 155,000 residences.

Foreigners' favorite spot for house purchases has been Istanbul with 61,734 residences being sold, followed by Antalya, Bursa, Yalova, capital Ankara and Sakarya.

Iraqis have become the biggest buyers of Turkish property since January 2015, purchasing over 30,000 residences. Iran, Saudi Arabia, Russia and Kuwait followed Iraq's lead, with each group purchasing at least 10,000 residences.

The first eight months of 2020 have seen increasing interest by the Chinese, who bought 575 houses in the January-August period and moved to the eighth rank among foreigners buying the most property.

Foreign residential sales showed a rapid increase in the last year due to the high exchange rate and legislative amendments that eased the minimum requirements for acquiring Turkish citizenship, which has led investors from all over the world to benefit from this opportunity and acquire residential property in the country

Under regulations introduced on Sept. 19, 2018, foreigners who own real estate in Turkey worth a minimum of \$250,000 – down from \$1 million – are eligible for Turkish citizenship.

According to the Interior Ministry's General Directorate of Population and Citizenship Affairs, some 2,611 foreign buyers became Turkish citizens a year after the amendments were introduced.

Mahmoud Fekri named Esteghlal coach

TEHRAN (MNA) - Mahmoud Fekri was named Esteghlal football team head coach.

The 51-year-old coach replaced interim coach Majid Namjoo Motlagh in the Tehran based football team. Fekri was named as Nassaji coach in February as Reza Mohajeri's replacement and helped them avoid relegation at the end of the 2019-20 Iran Professional League season.

Esteghlal had been linked with former Werder Bremen coach Alexander Nouri but they failed to reach an agreement with the German-Iranian coach due to financial problems.



Central Europe Struggles in Second Covid Surge After Earlier Success

PRAGUE (Dispatches) - The Czech Republic coped so well with the first phase of the coronavirus pandemic that in June around 2,000 people gathered at a 500m-long dinner table on Prague's Charles Bridge for a party billed as a "symbolic farewell" to the crisis.

"At the time, I don't think it was crazy," said Filip, a 30-year-old who attended the celebration, adding that it was a chance to enjoy one of Prague's most picturesque landmarks without the tourists. "I actually invited my grandma. She didn't accept. But not because of coronavirus — which tells you something about how low the numbers were."

Three months on, the picture looks far darker. On Friday, the 10.7m-strong central European nation recorded 3,792 new cases, its highest daily figure. More than two-thirds of the 80,605 Czechs confirmed to have caught the virus have done so in the last month alone. Last Wednesday, the government reintroduced a state of emergency.

The pattern has been repeated across central Europe. The region handled the first wave of the pandemic far better than the more developed economies of southern or western Europe. But the second wave looks more threatening. Like the Czechs, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania have in the last four days all reported their highest caseloads since the start of the pandemic.

Higher rates of testing mean the number of cases reported now is not directly comparable with the first wave. Deaths have also so far remained low. But unlike in April and May, there are signs that the region's health systems are beginning to struggle. Czech health minister Roman Prymula warned last month that if no action were taken, Czech hospitals could reach their limits by the end of October. In the Romanian capital, Bucharest, that point has already arrived.

"We don't see the epidemic plateau," Ferenc Jakab, a virologist leading a Hungarian government research group on the virus, told a virtual conference last week. "If... no more serious action is taken, the number of infections will rise drastically in the next month."

As elsewhere, the second wave of the virus in central Europe coincided with the holiday season and the reopening of schools. But the biggest difference between the first and second waves is how governments have reacted.

Central Europe's earlier success was largely due to its rapid and aggressive response. In March, as the UK let tens of thousands of people throng horse races in Cheltenham, and a town in France tried to break the world record for the number of people dressed as smurfs, central Europe closed borders and shops, banned large gatherings and ordered the wearing of masks.

When cases began surging again in August, however, the same countries — with the exception of Hungary, which closed its borders in September — largely tried to contain the pandemic with less draconian and more localised measures.

Observers say that for the region's health systems and bureaucracies — less well funded than those in western Europe, and, in some cases understaffed — this approach presents greater challenges.



"The type of capacity needed to follow the Wuhan example and shut down everything is completely different from the capacity needed to set up a proper track-and-trace system, to set up a proper support system for people who are quarantined," said Olga Loblova, a public health researcher at Cambridge university.

Testing, in particular, remains a weak spot. "[To regain control of the pandemic], the first thing to do is test, test, test," said Maria Ganczak, a professor and specialist in epidemiology at Poland's Zielona Gora university. "But we also need to implement at least some infection control procedures at schools, and also actually enforce the regulations that are already in place."

The situation has not been helped by muddled messaging from politicians. As cases began to climb in August, Czech prime minister Andrej Babis overruled an attempt by his health minister to reintroduce an obligation to wear masks more widely. Meanwhile, Hungary's foreign minister Peter Szijarto said he would fire staff who asked to work from home.

Part of the reason for the change of approach is that governments know more about the virus than six months ago. But it is also about the heavy economic toll. In the second quarter, economic output fell 14.5 per cent in Hungary, 12.3 per cent in Romania, 8.9 per cent in Poland, 8.4 per cent in the Czech Republic and 8.3 per cent in Slovakia.

"We have a huge deficit, the biggest in our history, and it seems that the government deficit next year will be roughly the same," said Danuse Nerudova, who was part of an economic task force advising the Czech government on coping with Covid. "We warned the government that a complete lockdown would really destabilise the public finances... and that's maybe the reason that they were reluctant to close the economy."

However, as cases continue to rise, observers say that more aggressive measures are needed again. "Some sort of lockdowns are probably inevitable at this point, probably targeting certain sections of social and economic life, and certain regions," said Ms Loblova.

"It's unrealistic to think that the situation can be improved with sophisticated and less restrictive measures."

Thousands Protest Against Corona Restrictions in Germany

BERLIN (Dispatches) - Police said that thousands of protesters protested in southern Germany over the weekend against restrictions imposed to contain the outbreak of the Coronavirus.

On Sunday, the police said that thousands of others went out in counter-demonstrations to show their support for the government's measures taken to contain the pandemic, and also to protest against supporters of the right-wing movement on the other side.

In total, the police counted between 10,500 and 11,000 in various demonstrations that began on Saturday and continued on Sunday, and a police spokesman said the sunny weather is expected to attract more participants. The organizers of the demonstrations against Corona restrictions had initially intended to gather 200,000 participants.

And local authorities imposed restrictions, including observing social distancing, to avoid an increase in the number of infections. The demonstrations attracted various groups of protesters, from civil rights defenders to anti-vaccinators, neo-Nazis, and members of far-right groups.

Germany has managed the epidemic crisis well so far, keeping infection and death rates low compared to other European countries in the first wave of the outbreak in the spring.

But injuries are starting to increase again, and the authorities are considering imposing more restrictions that may limit public life and slow the recovery of the economy, after Germany witnessed in the first half of the year its worst recorded economic recession.

These were the details of the news Thousands protest against Corona restrictions in Germany for this day. We hope that we have succeeded by giving you the full details and information. To follow all our news, you can subscribe to the alerts system or to one of our different systems to provide you with all that is new.

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Indo-French Satellites to Trace Illegal Oil Spillage

NEW DELHI (Dispatches)

- The constellation of maritime surveillance satellites for the Indian Ocean Region, to be jointly launched by India and France, will be able to trace illegal spillage of oil by ships, a senior French space agency CENS official said on Sunday.

In August last year, CNES and ISRO committed to developing and building a constellation of satellites carrying telecommunications and radar and optical remote-sensing instruments, constituting the first space-based system in the world capable of tracking ships continuously.

The monitoring centre will be based in India, the official added.

"With a revisit capability (of the satellites), this makes possible to task acquisitions several times a day. It will also be able to detect oil slicks and trace their origin," the official said.

The main purpose of this is to trace illegal spillage of oil by ships. The Indian Ocean Region has several Sea Lanes of Communication (SLOC) and used by many ships every day.

The satellites will be operated jointly by France and



India to monitor ships in the Indian Ocean.

The system will also cover a wide belt around the globe, benefiting a broad range of French economic interests, the official said.

Parts of the satellites will be built in both the countries and launched from India, he added.

CNES and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) are also operating a

number of climate-monitoring satellites together.

"Trishna", a highly precise thermal infrared observer, will also be part of the fleet of Indo-French satellites.

After a successful design phase led by a joint team of ISRO-CNES, the satellite is now set to enter its development phases in the coming months, the official said.

"It will provide continuous thermal monitoring at high resolution, its unmatched capabilities serving precious applications ranging from sustainable agriculture to drought forecasting and monitoring of urban heat islands," the official said.

France and India are also collaborating on the Gaganyaan, India's first manned space mission.

France will also be part of ISRO's mission to Venus, the official added.

Saudi Business Leader Calls for Boycott of Goods From Hostile Turkey

RIYADH (Reuters) - The head of Saudi Arabia's Chambers of Commerce has called for a boycott of Turkish products amid reports from merchants that animosity between Ankara and Riyadh is hindering the flow of goods between the two regional powers.

Saudi Arabia and Turkey have been at odds for some years over foreign policy and attitudes towards political Islamist groups. The murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in Saudi's Istanbul consulate in 2018 escalated tensions sharply.

Earlier this year the two countries blocked some of each other's news websites.

"A boycott of everything Turkish, be it imports, investment or tourism, is the responsibility of every Saudi 'trader and consumer', in response to the continued hostility of the Turkish government against our leadership, country and citizens," businessman Ajlan al-Ajlan tweeted on Saturday.

The Saudi Chambers of Commerce is a non-government group of private sector business people. The Saudi government's communications office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

For over a year, some Saudi and Turkish traders have speculated that Saudi Arabia was enacting an informal boycott of imports from Turkey.

People Do Not Accept...

FROM PAGE 1

He said people do not accept any passiveness or weakness from officials for resolving the problems, reiterating that enemies are trying to pump disappointment in the society and in such a condition any official in any branches of the government should create hope in the society with his remarks and deeds.

He also urged the law enforcement forces to confront decisively with those who cause disruption in the security and peace of the society and create panic in the public.

Raeisi also said that Judiciary will pursue paying damages to the families of the victims of Ukrainian passenger plane which was shot down, adding that the government has not taken any action for paying damages but the Judiciary assures the families of victims of paying damages.

Saudi, Israel Have...

FROM PAGE 1

"On Saudi Arabia, I should say that Saudi Arabia is bound by the NPT to honor its commitments. We are carefully examining the relevant developments and news, and warn Riyadh to be careful to honor its international commitments and allow the international and legal paths to be carefully pursued about Saudi Arabia's activities that are sometimes hidden and covert," he stated.

"We have also told the international community and institutions, as they are in the right path to hold Saudi Arabia accountable for its obligations," the spokesperson concluded.

In August, Iran's permanent representative to international organizations in Vienna called on the IAEA to clarify Saudi Arabia's "covert" nuclear activities.

Iran Prepares...

FROM PAGE 1

"I'd like to say once again that the Islamic Republic of Iran is monitoring the incident and the war that is underway near the northwestern border with sensitivity, carefully and closely, and is addressing it in constant contact with all parties," the spokesman said.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has made it clear for all sides since the first day that there is no military solution to the decades-old conflict," Khatibzadeh underlined.

"We hope the both sides would refrain from continuing war and violence, considering their historical responsibility, would carefully observe the main rights about non-aggression against civilians, and would also bear in mind that the Islamic Republic of Iran cannot tolerate clashes at its borders, specifically a violation of its territory," he added.

"We have made it clear for our friends at both capitals that they must pay the necessary attention and be careful, as this is absolutely a red line for the Islamic Republic of Iran that its frontier is not violated, even unintentionally," the Iranian diplomat warned.

Regarding the UAE's claim about the three Iranian islands and the UAE oil pipeline project with Israel in the Persian Gulf, the Foreign Ministry spokesman stated: "For every country, no matter how much it makes mistakes in our neighborhood, regarding the good neighborliness policy we try to help them return to the right path of regional actions."

Khatibzadeh added: "Regarding the three islands, Iran does not ask permission from anyone to take action on its borders and territory."

"The three islands of Iran in the Persian Gulf have always undoubtedly belonged to Iran, and these statements do not create any rights for anyone and do not affect the exercise of Iran sovereignty."

The spokesman stated that the Zionist regime is declining and is trying to bring everyone else down with it in the drowning that is happening.

"I hope the current government of UAE will not be submerged by this regime," he expressed.

Ulissi Wins Giro Stage 2

ROME (Dispatches) - Italian Diego Ulissi of the UAE team won an uphill dash for the line on stage 2 of the Giro d'Italia on Sunday as compatriot Filippo Ganna kept the overall leader's pink jersey.

The victory was Ulissi's seventh on the Giro and follows Ganna's home crowd pleasing win on Saturday.

Race favourite, Ineos captain Geraint Thomas, and the main contenders for the three-week event all finished together on the Sicilian hilltop.

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Philosophical Gosden Takes Enable's Arc Defeat

PARIS (AFP) - John Gosden took Enable's falling short of winning an historic third Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe philosophically saying "if you can't take your punches then you should not be in this game."

The 69-year-old English trainer did not travel to France -- due to having to quarantine when he returned because of coronavirus protocols -- as his six-year-old star finished sixth behind Sottsass. It was the first time in her 19 race career the 11-time Group One winner had finished outside the first three.

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SPORTS

TUESDAY OCTOBER 6, 2020

Nadal Crushes Qualifier Korda to Reach Last Eight

PARIS (Reuters) - Rafa Nadal blew away American qualifier Sebastian Korda 6-1 6-1 6-2 to romp into the French Open quarter-finals on Sunday and close in on a record-extending 13th title at Roland Garros.

With the sun out and the wind up on Court Philippe Chatrier it always looked like mission impossible for the 213th-ranked Korda, and so it proved in a one-sided fourth round match.

Nadal has lost no sets and only 23 games in reaching his 42nd Grand Slam quarter-final and is yet to face a seed.

Rising Italian Jannick Sinner, the first player since Nadal in 2005 to reach the quarter-finals on his debut, is next.

"I'm in the quarter-finals without losing a set and having very positive scores. So I can't complain at all," the 34-year-old, who needs one more Grand Slam title to equal Roger Federer's 20, told reporters.

"Today the conditions out there were so difficult to play a fantastic match, the wind was very high. But in general terms I

The 20-year-old Korda, son of 1992 runner-up Petr, had enjoyed a dream run in his first Tour-level event on clay and was up against his idol -- the man he named his cat after.

If he was to stand any chance of making it at all competitive he needed a good start, and he will rue the fact that he lost the first two games despite having game points.

Nadal, who needed nine minutes to hold serve in the first game, admitted that had been a crucial factor in ensuring this was a Sunday stroll.

Meanwhile Austrian Dominic Thiem was made to sweat before advancing into the French Open quarter-finals as he ended Frenchman Hugo Gaston's dream run with a 6-4 6-4 5-7 3-6 6-3 victory on Sunday.



The third seed, who was beaten by claycourt master Rafael Nadal in the final of the last two editions, was clearly frustrated against the resourceful 20-year-old but eventually pulled through to set up a clash with Argentine 12th seed Diego Schwartzman.

Things went Thiem's way in the first two sets, with the Austrian needing only one break in each to put himself on track for a straightforward win.

Gaston's first break of the match early in the third set was a sign of trouble to come, but after breaking straight back, it seemed like Thiem had a grip on the encounter.

The local favourite, however, continued to mix up his game with drop shots and Thiem was derailed, only regaining control in the last part of the decider, prevailing on his second match point.

"He's got such a big touch in his hand, his drop shots are from another planet. I must have sprinted 400 times to the net," said Thiem, who is on course to collide with 12-times champion Nadal in the semi-final, on court Philippe Chatrier.

"If he continues like this he's gonna be a huge player and give this stadium a lot of joy. I'm lucky I made it through today."

Lewandowski Gives Bayern Last-Gasp Win Over Hertha

MUNICH (Reuters) - Bayern Munich's Robert Lewandowski scored four goals including a stoppage-time penalty to give the German champions a 4-3 home win over Hertha Berlin in a pulsating Bundesliga clash on Sunday.

The result left Bayern fourth in the standings on six points from three games, one behind the top three led by Leipzig on goal difference, while Hertha slipped to 13th on four points.

The sides had a goal each ruled out for offside before Lewandowski fired Bayern into a 40th-minute lead, drilling in a Serge Gnabry cross after goalkeeper Alexander Schwolow had saved his header.

Bayern seemed to be in cruise control after Lewandowski made it 2-0 with a superb shot on the turn from the edge of the penalty area in the 51st, but the visitors had other ideas.

Jhon Cordoba pulled one back with a towering header which Bayern keeper Manuel Neuer could not keep out and Mathus Cunha equalised after muscling his way past several defenders to steer a low shot into the bottom corner.

That set up a frantic climax, with Lewandowski again taking centre stage and boosting his tally to 103 goals in 98 home games for Bayern at the Allianz Arena.

He popped up at the far post in the 85th minute to tap in a cross from the right but Bayern's joy was short-lived as substitute Jessic Ngankam levelled three minutes later with his first touch of the ball.

The 20-year old Ngankam netted his first Bundesliga goal with a diving header after a cross from the left, only for Hertha to see what would have been a well-deserved draw slip from their grasp.

Bayern and Lewandowski had the last laugh as the prolific Polish striker dispatched his spot-kick into the bottom left corner after he was hauled down by Maximilian Mittelstaedt.

After the two-week international break, Bayern visit promoted Arminia Bielefeld while Hertha host VfB Stuttgart on Oct. 17.



Bayern Munich Set to Sign Roca, Choupo-Moting

BERLIN (Dispatches) - Bayern Munich are set to boost their squad by signing Espanyol midfielder Marc Roca and former Paris Saint-Germain forward Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting before the transfer window closes today, according to reports.

German daily Bild and magazine Kicker say the European champions are close to signing Roca, 23, to replace Thiago Alcantara, who has joined Liverpool, and Choupo-Moting, 31, as understudy for striker Robert Lewandowski.

Roca is already in Munich and will cost

nine million euros (\$10.5 million), plus bonuses, when he signs a five-year contract.

Choupo-Moting is a free agent after leaving PSG. He is a Cameroon international with German nationality, who has played for Hamburg, Mainz, Nuremberg and Schalke in the Bundesliga.

However, Bayern have yet to confirm either signing with the transfer window closing in Germany.

The German champions want to sign an extra defender and are also in talks with Lyon right-back Bouna Sarr, 28.

The Bavarian giants are said to have renewed interest in Chelsea winger Callum Hudson-Odoi, 19, but Bild claim the two clubs can not agree a fee.

Bayern coach Hansi Flick has made no secret that he needs new signings after losing Philippe Coutinho, Ivan Perisic and Alcantara from the squad which won the Champions League title last August.

Watkins Hat-Trick Leads Villa's 7-2 Rout of Liverpool

BIRMINGHAM (Reuters) - A superb first-half hat-trick from Ollie Watkins helped Aston Villa to a stunning 7-2 victory over Liverpool in the Premier League on Sunday to end the champions' 100% start to the season in extraordinary fashion.

Villa narrowly avoided relegation last season and finished 64 points behind Liverpool, who conceded seven goals in a match in any competition for the first time since 1963.

"It's hard to lose the way we lost tonight. First and foremost well done to Aston Villa, we have to give them the credit they deserve. It was one of those performances where we weren't 100% at it from start to finish," Liverpool defender Virgil van Dijk told Sky Sports.

"Overall, we're all disappointed, we shouldn't have lost with the numbers that we did but it's about sticking together and making sure it doesn't happen again."

Liverpool began badly at Villa Park as a poor pass from Adrian -- deputising for Alisson in goal for the visitors after the Brazilian picked up a shoulder injury -- gifted Watkins his the opener in the fourth minute.

Adrian has made five errors directly leading to opposition goals in his 21 appearances for Liverpool in all competitions, the same number as Alisson in 92 games for the club.

Ahead of the Spaniard, a full-strength Liverpool defence was carved open again moments later, with former Everton midfielder Ross Barkley -- making his debut after joining Villa on loan -- gifted another chance, but he dragged his effort wide.

"All the things you should not do in a football match we did tonight," Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp said. "The first goal had an impact but it shouldn't. We conceded goals like that in the past, but the reaction wasn't good, and we lost the plot."



Man United Humiliated as Spurs Win 6-1 at Old Trafford

MANCHESTER (Reuters) - A shambolic Manchester United suffered a club record-equalling defeat in the Premier League era as they crashed to a 6-1 loss at home to Tottenham Hotspur on Sunday.

Son Heung-min and Harry Kane each scored twice for Spurs while United's Anthony Martial was sent off in the 28th minute as Jose Mourinho celebrated a stunning victory on his return to the club which sacked him 22 months ago. United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer had chosen Eric Bailly to partner Harry Maguire in the centre of defence, his first league start at Old Trafford since April 2019, but the pairing delivered a shockingly slapstick performance.

A brilliant Spurs ruthlessly exposed United's weakness at the back and made the most of the space given to them in midfield, re-opening the question of whether Bruno Fernandes and Paul Pogba can play together for United in a three-man set-up.

Yet what will also please Mourinho is the fact that his team were simply stronger, faster and better organised than his former club. It started well for United with Fernandes scoring a second-minute penalty after Martial was brought down by Davinson Sanchez. The lead, however, lasted just two minutes, as Spurs took advantage of hesitant defending from United.

Maguire's poor header went back into his own box and then Luke Shaw was bundled off the ball by Erik Lamela with Tanguy Ndombele firing home the loose ball.

Three minutes later and United were caught out again with a quick free kick from Harry Kane sending Son through and the South Korean's pace and composed finish put Spurs into the lead.

It got much worse for United when Martial was sent off in the 28th minute after retaliating to an elbow from Lamela with a push in the Argentine's face.



Alisson Suffers Shoulder Injury, Out Of Brazil Qualifiers

BIRMINGHAM, England (Reuters) - Liverpool and Brazil goalkeeper Alisson Becker has injured his shoulder in training and will be out for several weeks, his coach Juergen Klopp said on Sunday before his side's Premier League match at Aston Villa.

Klopp predicted Alisson would not be available immediately after the international break, potentially ruling him out of the Merseyside derby away to Everton on Oct. 17 and their Champions League group stage opener at Ajax Amsterdam on Oct. 21.

He is certain to miss Brazil's first two World Cup qualifiers, at home to Bolivia on Oct. 10 and away to Peru on Oct. 14.

"Yesterday there was an incident in training, very unlucky -- two players clashed with each other, one gets up, one doesn't. The one who didn't get up was Ali," Klopp told Sky Sports before kick-off against Villa.

A statement on Liverpool's website said the Brazilian had hurt his shoulder.

"We don't know 100 per cent (how serious the problem is), but he cannot play today. We have to do further assessment; but he's injured, let me say it like this. Now we hope it will go really quickly," added Klopp.

