

**IRAN NEWS Expresses Its
Condolences to Its Muslim Readers
On the Occasion of Arbaeen
(Forty Days After the Day of Ashura,
Martyrdom of Imam Hussein (A)).
The Next Issue Will Hit the
News-Stands on Saturday**

IRAN NEWS

**Iranian Government spokesman
Ali Rabiei Said That South Korea
Has Deprived the Iranian of
Their Rights and Doesn't Release
Iran's Frozen Money Under
U.S. Policies' Pressure**

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Countries Urged Not to Be Accomplice in U.S. Anti-humanitarian Actions Against Iran

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN- Regarding the efforts of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, government legal institutions, and the Central Bank to release Iran's blocked foreign exchange reserves, Iran's president has said that the Iranian nation does not expect countries that inadvertently accompany these sanctions to participate in the US anti-humanitarian actions.

.S.peaking at the 171st meeting of the government's Economic Coordination Board following a report presented by the Ministry of Industry, Mine, and Trade on the plans made to control the prices of goods, President Hassan Rouhani on Tuesday emphasized the need for accurate implementation of this program, saying: "The government is determined to provide people with access to basic and required goods and control their prices by implementing a comprehensive monitoring program and not allow fluctuations in the prices of basic and essential goods to disrupt people's peace of mind as well as life and livelihood."

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Iranians Obligated to Wear Masks as of Oct. 10

TEHRAN (IFP) - Wearing masks will be mandatory for all Iranian citizens nationwide as of Saturday, October 10, 2020, and offenders will be fined, a top healthcare official says.

Deputy Health Minister Iraj Harirchi said on Tuesday expert discussions are underway on the amount of the fine and how it should be enforced.

The official further noted a draft directive has also been drawn up to punish individuals who know they are infected with the coronavirus, yet they travel through the society.

The official then touched upon the implementation of restrictions in the capital, Tehran.

"We are concerned about people's mixed behaviour. With the closure of schools and businesses, the number of people going on trips or going to shopping malls is not supposed to increase," he said.

"If a lockdown is enforced, it is aimed at keeping people at home," said the official.

He then referred to the current situation of hospitals and the trend of offering services to patients.

"At the moment, the situation in most provinces across the country is in a red alert state," he noted.

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Iran Among 10 Top World Radar Manufacturers



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Aerospace Force Brigadier General Amir Ali Hajizadeh underlined his country's high capability in production of different military equipment, saying that Iran stands among the world's 10 top states manufacturing radars.

"Out of 20 radar manufacturing states in the world, certainly the Islamic Iran is among the 10 ten," General Hajizadeh said, addressing a ceremony to put into operation two home-made Ghadir-class radars in the Central and Southeastern provinces of Yazd and Kerman on Tuesday. He added that overlapping of the radar networks developed by the Iranian Army and the IRGC is one of the major military achievements of Iran, noting that the young Iranian experts are able to produce all radars needed by the operational forces.

"The next radar will be launched in Chabahar city (in Sistan and Baluchestan province) in the next three months and the number of the Ghadir-class radars will increase to 8," Hajizadeh said.

Referring to the scientific and executive capacity of the elite IRGC Aerospace Forces, Hajizadeh said, "Our young elite forces are able to build and provide the radars needed by the operational forces."

Yesterday two long-range 3D Ghadir radars designed and developed by Iranian experts have joined the country's air defense forces.

The radars were put into operation during a ceremony on Tuesday in the presence of Chief Commander of Iran's Army Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi and Commander of the Aerospace Division of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Brigadier General Hajizadeh.

The Ghadir radar system was first unveiled by the IRGC in 2013. Eight of them have since been installed across the country.

The phased-array radar system has been designed to identify different types of stealth aircraft and deal with electronic warfare. It is equipped with a large combination of transmitters and receivers in a quadrilateral shape without rotation and mechanical movement, providing 360-degree coverage within a range of over 1,000 kilometers.

The first batch of the long-range sophisticated radar was stationed in a base in the city of Garmsar, Eastern Tehran, in June 2014. The second set was put into service in the Southwestern city of Ahvaz in July 2015.

Totally designed and manufactured by the Iranian military experts at the IRGC Aerospace Force, the Ghadir identifies aerial targets on the basis of 3-dimensional detection. The system enjoys nonstop monitoring capabilities. Using low signals, Ghadir is a suitable option for electronic warfare.

With a range of nearly 1,100 kilometers, the Iranian radar system can even detect targets with pretty small cross-section areas. As the radar system is capable of detecting small flying objects and targets at far distances, it leaves no obstruction in radar maintenance industry in Iran.

Tehran Calls for Non-Discriminatory Implementation of CWC

TEHRAN (MNA) – Condemning the use of chemical weapons by anyone, Iran's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Majid Takht Ravanchi called for balanced, full and non-discriminatory implementation of Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).

He made the remarks on Monday evening at the UN Security Council meeting on the use of chemical weapons in Syria. Takht Ravanchi called for balanced, full and non-discriminatory implementation of Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), saying, "As a victim of chemical weapons, Iran condemns in strongest possible terms the use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere and under any circumstances."

"Iran reiterates its call for balanced, full and non-discriminatory implementation of CWC," he added. Takht Ravanchi noted, "In the past few years, based on baseless allegations, the process of banning the use of chemical weapons of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Security Council against the Syrian government have been abused."

Referring to the approved report of the joint mechanism for the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons based on Damascus' compliance with all obligations and the destruction of all chemical reserves, he said, "The Organization for the Proliferation of Chemical Weapons also confirmed the destruction of all of Syria's chemical stockpiles and 27 production facilities." "These facts are now being ignored, as well as the Syrian government's significant cooperation with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the United Nations, including the submission of more than 80 monthly reports and a wealth of information," Iran envoy to UN added.

He called this behavior "unconstructive", saying that it would undermine the credibility of the Security Council and the Organization for the Proliferation of Chemical Weapons, and weaken its decision-making process. Takht Ravanchi highlighted, "These measures have negative implications for the full and effective realization of the main goal of the non-proliferation of chemical weapons." "The main goal of this process, the elimination of chemical weapons, has not yet been achieved due to the apparent failure of the United States as one of the major parties," he stressed.

ViewPoint

By: Hamid Reza Naghashian



Atheism or Hypocrisy, Which One Should We Side With?

Have anyone thought that Turkey, in supporting Republic of Azerbaijan's invasion of Armenia, is pursuing some part of its scenario of Neo-Ottomanization? That Karabakh dispute has very dimensions and multi-dimensions like inland, outland, regional and even international roots, and for this reason all regional and international actors are involved in this dispute, the Islamic Republic of Iran unlike them has emphasized solving the problem peacefully through mediation and insisted on it but other parties have shown no will in settling the dispute and they do not endeavor to quench this devastating and bloodshedding fire. Isn't it interesting that today Iran's share required to care has been more than other involved parties in the dispute? Because Karabakh in the past was part of northern region of Iran that was separated according to the Gulistan Treaty after the World War I and after the conflict between Iran and Tsardom of Russia and killing of Javad Khan Qajar, the last Iranian ruler of that area. After the collapse of Tsar Empire in Russia, Azerbaijan and Armenia became independent, to some extent, thanks to possession of Iran's lands.

Unfortunately we see some clerics and ulema in Iran issuing statements and claims that since Azerbaijan is a Shiite country and pro-Prophet Household, we should support Azerbaijan as a Shiite country and we should defeat Armenia. This is while our national interests do not necessitate, for the time being, to side with any one of them, and announcing readiness for mediation has been even the wisest decision.

However, one should ask this question who believes that Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev has taken military action just for the sake of Shiism's interests while the country has signed military and security pact with Israel and has provided Israel with the base for its drones. The country uses Israeli equipment against people of Karabakh. In the Republic of Azerbaijan that we consider it a Shiite country and pro-Prophet Household, Muslims are not allowed to form religious processions in the month of Muharram and offenders against this order are severely punished. In this country many mosques which were revered by majority of Shiite population have been demolished that the last one was Fatemeh Zahra (A) Mosque in the Yeni Guneshli district in Baku.

In this country observing hijab (Islamic dress-code) in schools, universities and public places are forbidden and a large number of Muslim girls are expelled from educational places for observing their hijab and even some protestors to this policy like Haj Mohsen Samedov have been jailed and lost their lives due to the terrible prison condition as Samedov has been sentenced to 15 years in prison and he is still serving his prison term due to just being religious.

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Iranian Bank's Claim For Damages Hits EU's Brick Wall

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) - The European Court of Justice (ECJ) in Luxembourg has thrown out an Iranian bank's claim for damages because of EU sanctions previously imposed on it in connection with the Iranian nuclear program.

According to the court on Tuesday, the judges rejected an appeal filed by Bank Refah Kargaran against a judgment of the European Union Court of First Instance, which dismissed the claim.

Accordingly, the judges at the European Court of Justice recognized certain legal errors in the determination of the scope of jurisdiction in the previous judgment. However, these did not reach a level that would have made the decision of the lower court necessary, it said.

The ECJ said the bank was first placed on an EU sanctions list in 2010 and 2011, which means that its assets in Europe were frozen, but the bank managed to have the legal acts annulled in court.

In 2013, the EU imposed sanctions on the lender again, prompting it to file an appeal which was rejected by the ECJ on Tuesday.

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Aggression Against Iran Not Tolerated

Velayati:

Armenia Should Leave Occupied Azeri Lands

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Ali Akbar Velayati, an international adviser to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, called on Armenia to withdraw its forces from the regions it has occupied in the Republic of Azerbaijan, but emphasized that such a process should take place politically, not militarily.

In an interview with Iranian daily Kayhan, Velayati commented on the latest flare-up of armed clashes between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region.

Pointing to the Armenian occupation of seven cities and the four UN resolutions calling for the withdrawal of Armenians from the occupied Azeri territories and their return to the internationally accepted boundaries, Velayati said all UN Member States must obey the resolutions.

“We call on Armenia to return those occupied parts to the Republic of Azerbaijan. More than one million Azeris have been displaced after the occupation of those areas and must return home soon,” he added.

The Leader’s adviser underlined that Iran takes the same stance on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict that it has adopted on the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories.

Velayati made it clear that the dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan has no military solution whatsoever, and must be resolved politically.

Iran is opposed to any military action from any side, because people would be the only loser in the war, Velayati stated.

Deploing the recent attacks on residential areas amid the Nagorno-Karabakh war, the former Iranian foreign minister said this war runs counter to the interests of people of the two countries and to regional security.

He also slammed foreign parties, including Turkey and Israel, for fanning the flames of the war.

Velayati called on friends in Ankara to join hands with Iran and other regional states to help liberate the occupied territories of Azerbaijan without bloodshed.

TEHRAN (FNA) - Government Spokesman Ali Rabiei said that his country emphasizes evacuation of Azerbaijan’s territories occupied by Armenia, and further warned both warring states to avoid misfire at Iranian borders in their ongoing clashes.

“We emphasize protection of Azerbaijan’s territorial integrity as well as evacuation of Azerbaijan’s occupied lands. We believe interference of third parties is harmful. We do not consider the military option as a

solution in the region and we are concerned about harms to our citizens at the bordering areas and we will deal with any such case. We want peace in the region,” Rabiei told reporters in Tehran on Tuesday.

He also warned that Iran does not tolerate clashes and aggression against its lands even undeliberate actions, and added, “Iran is one of the few actors which enjoys good ties with Azerbaijan and Armenia and wants the war to end as soon as possible.”



On the case of Israel, he said “the Zionist regime is basically illegitimate and is [itself] founded on the occupation of other territories, i.e. Palestine. It has no right to comment on these matters at all. This regime does nothing but incite sedition and should not be present in the region [in the first place],” the Iranian official noted.

“We want neither Armenians nor Azeris to incur casualties. Both Muslims and Christians must live in complete security. The violated rights of the Republic of Azerbaijan and its occupied territories must be restored while the bloodshed must stop. The Islamic Republic will spare no effort to help broker peace between the two neighbors,” he added.

Additionally, Velayati lashed out at France for meddling in the regions’ affairs, saying Iran will not allow insecurity in Transcaucasia, also known as the South Caucasus.

Asked about reports of the deployment of Takfiri terrorists to Azerbaijan in the areas close to the Iranian border, he expressed hope that they would not be true.

If so, all those behind such a deployment “are responsible for allowing al-Qaeda and Daesh extremists to enter this sensitive area. Daesh and Wahhabi extremists are tools in the hands of the Americans. They must be stopped, and certainly the people of Azerbaijan and Armenia do not agree with these individuals who have a very dark record ... [and] committed so many crimes in Iraq and Syria,” he said.

“Undoubtedly, the Islamic Republic of Iran will strongly defend its security and its borders. In this regard, too, we have left no room for doubt. We will never allow terrorist groups and the stooges of American and Israel to nest along our borders. They will definitely be dealt with.”

45 Americans to Be Prosecuted for Their Role in Medical Sanctions

TEHRAN (IFP)- The Iranian Judiciary’s High Council for Human Rights has drawn up a list for the prosecution of dozens of American nationals engaged in the U.S. sanctions against the people of Iran.

During a Monday visit to a hospital in Tehran for the patients suffering from rare diseases, head of the Iranian Judiciary’s High Council for Human Rights, Ali Baqeri Kani, said the council has compiled a list of 45 American natural and legal persons who have had a role in the cruel U.S. sanctions against the people of Iran.

The list, made in cooperation with the Iranian Intelligence Ministry, has been submitted to the Prosecutor General of Tehran for judicial action, he added.

The 45 American people in the list are going to be prosecuted in accordance with the Article 5 of the Iranian Act on countering the US violation of human rights and terrorist activities and the Article 8 of the law on retaliatory action against the US designation of the IRGC as a terrorist organization, he noted.

Baqeri Kani finally lashed out at the U.S. government for turning the policy of maximum pressure on Iran into the policy of maximum hostility towards the Iranian nation, and deplored the European states’ obedience to Washington’s criminal actions in imposing medical and pharmaceutical sanctions on people of Iran.

Minister Urges Azerbaijan, Armenia To Uphold Int’l Law



IRANNEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani-Fazli said on Monday that Azerbaijan Republic and Armenia should consider the implementation of international law, i.e. respecting sovereignty of the countries so that Nagorno-Karabakh conflict would be resolved.

Talking to reporters late on Monday, he added, “Ensuring internal security from the border areas to the farthest point of the country is our main priority.”

Iranian Armed Forces and Law Enforcement (Police force) are constantly and precisely monitoring the borders, he said, noting that neighboring countries have been warned not to damage security of border areas in any way.

Rahmani-Fazli hoped that the issue would be resolved through upholding international regulations, i.e. respecting the countries’ sovereignty. “Although some bullets hit parts of Iran, we warned them, and if this trend continues, we will issue a more serious warning again. However, we hope that no accident will happen,” he said.

Rahmani-Fazli said that Iran’s economic activities have had a positive trend despite problems in the country and oppressive sanctions. The global recession, oppressive sanctions, and coronavirus are three factors that directly affect the country’s economy, he added.

Referring to imposed sanctions on Iran, he said that the people and officials have resisted for more than two years against the oppressive sanctions that have targeted the country’s economic and trade activities.

Iran, Kazakhstan to Hold Farabi Int’l Webinar



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - According to the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO, Hojatollah Ayoubi, Secretary-General of the Commission, and the Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Iran Askhat Orazbay co-chaired the first coordination meeting for the Farabi International Webinar.

The Kazakh ambassador said at the meeting that cultural relations between Iran and Kazakhstan should be more active within the framework of UNESCO.

Referring to the plans for holding the Farabi International Webinar, he said: “This year, we will celebrate 1105 years of Farabi’s birthday. Farabi belongs to everyone, and this scientist was born in a city called Farab in Kazakhstan. We consider Farabi to belong to the Islamic Republic of Iran and Kazakhstan, and this great scientist is important to both countries.”

Kazakhstan’s ambassador to Iran added that due to the coronavirus pandemic, the two countries decided to hold the conference on October 19 in the form of a webinar. According to him, guests from Azerbaijan, Canada, Egypt, Finland, the United Kingdom, Greece, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, the Netherlands, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Iran have been invited to attend the international webinar.

Some of Farabi scholars, philosophers, or orientalists who are familiar with Farabi’s works will give a speech at this webinar.

Welcoming the Farabi International Webinar, Hojjatullah Ayoubi said: “Farabi united the two nations and we are happy with your gratitude to the great personalities.”

Referring to the presence of Dr. Gholami, Minister of Science, Research, and Technology of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the webinar, Ayoubi announced the readiness of prominent Iranian scholars to participate at the international webinar.

President Criticizes Majlis Speaker Over Hospital Visit

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - The already fragile working relationship between two of top government officials is hurtling towards a breaking point, this time over the novel coronavirus that has engulfed the country.

President Hassan Rouhani canceled the meeting of the heads of executive, legislative and judicial branches of the government slated for Tuesday after Speaker Baqar Qalibaf’s visit to a hospital.

Although his office did not explicitly specify the reason, sources in the government and local media reports suggest that the meeting was canceled amid fears of contracting the virus.

Qalibaf, who was scheduled to host the Tuesday’s three-branches of government meeting, created a stir after he visited a prominent hospital in Tehran on Sunday to meet coronavirus patients and medical staff.

Pictures of the Speaker flanked by patients and medics inside the COVID-19 ward at Imam Khomeini Hospital were widely circulated on social media, prompting a range of reactions.

Many posts compared Qalibaf’s visit to the hospital with Rouhani’s in-house meetings.

Qalibaf’s statement on Twitter suggested that he wanted to boost the morale of doctors and nurses at a time when Iran is grappling with the third wave of virus, which has put extra burden on hospitals.

Rouhani’s office, however, thought otherwise. His deputy head of communications Alireza Moezi took to Twitter to slam Qalibaf for not complying with the mandatory health protocols.

“Control of the spread of virus depends on the observance of instructions issued by the specialized bodies,” Moezi said.

“All levels of the government must in the current situation follow it,” he added.

Without naming anyone, Moezi said violation of health protocols related to the pandemic conveys a “dangerous message” regarding public health.

“Attending to critical patients and taking a reporter and a camera with them is not standing with people but making people’s health concerns insignificant,” he said in a series of tweets.

While there has been no reaction from Qalibaf yet, some conservative parliamentarians close to him were quick to jump in his defense.

“Qalibaf visits a hospital in compliance with health protocols and the head of president’s office announces the cancellation of government meeting,” said Ahmed Amirabadi Farahani, a lawmaker from Tehran.

“Reason: the possibility of transmitting COVID-19 virus from Qalibaf to Rouhani. It is really embarrassing,” he added.

Tehran, Dhaka Mayors Discuss Urban Issues

TEHRAN (IP) - The mayors of the capitals of Iran and Bangladesh discussed various urban problems and the spread of the Coronavirus.

Tehran Mayor Pirooz Hanachi said in a video conversation with Bangladeshi capital Dhaka Mayor Atiqul Islam that the two countries’ capitals were suffering from air pollution, traffic, and cultural issues.

“Almost all major cities have similar problems due to the concentration of population in a small spot,” mayor Tehran’s mayor noted.

Hanachi also said that before the Corona crisis, metropolises could generate income through sustainable development, a dynamic economy, and tourism, but Corona made many of their economic activities difficult.



Referring to the ineffectiveness of the independently fighting against the virus, the mayor added: “In addition to dealing with the corona crisis, Iran also faces harsh U.S. sanctions, which have made it difficult to export its products and import drugs and essential items.”

Hanachi lamented the efforts of some powers to wage war and sanctions, despite the conditions of the Corona pandemic.

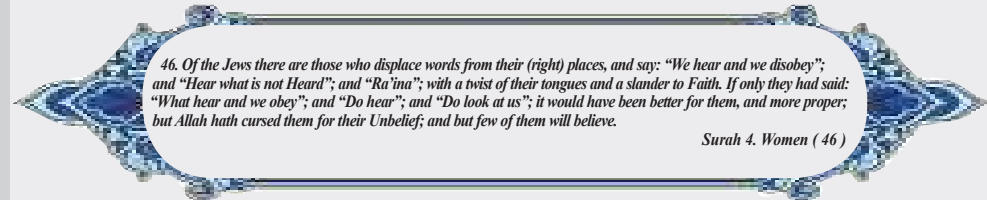
The mayor of Dhaka, referring to the friendly relations between Bangladesh and Iran, called for a memorandum of understanding between Tehran and Dhaka.

Atiq al-Islam also said that Dhaka has over 12 million people, adding, “Dhaka welcomes Tehran’s experiences in dealing with addiction and the problems on the outskirts of the city.”



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	11:52
■ Evening (Maghreb)	17:57
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:42
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:05



Iran Exports to Iraq Decline by 20%

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Chairman of the Iran-Iraq Chamber of Commerce Yahya Ale-Eshaq says Iran's exports to Iraq have slumped by 30 percent and urged Iran's Central Bank to start talks for launching bartering system with Iraq.

Speaking to ILNA, Ale-Eshaq said that in case the bartering system is launched, some part of Iran's problems would be resolved definitely, so the Central Bank due to its good relations with its Iraqi counterpart can consult on launching the bartering system.

On the current trend of trade between Iran and Iraq, he said the borders between Iran and Iraq for tourists and land travels have been closed by both sides due to hygienic reasons and it is no new issue but the trade goes on and one can say it is one of the best trade relations of Iran in the world. Ale-Eshaq noted that of course the priorities for Iran's trade are China, Iraq, the UAE, Turkey and Afghanistan, respectively.

He further said unfortunately the trade volume in the global level has declined because of the Coronavirus pandemic and regional trade has also been affected by it and faced decline but both Iran and Iraq are determined to expand their trade.

Ale-Eshaq added that the important thing is that all government officials, economic activists and public organs are after expanding this market, adding that in case the international and regional conditions improve, Iraq market is a very good one, and Iran and Iraq's trade relations, joint investments, commercial services and other issues will improve, too.

He deplored that the problem in the field of banking transactions and transfer of forex still remains, adding that although this trend continues but it is very slow. He urged the Central Bank to reach a proper formula for forex commitment of exporters in order to save the trade and to meet the bank's demands but there is still no specific formula yet.



He noted that Iraq and Afghanistan markets are different from other markets and the Central Bank should adopt a certain formula for trade with these markets.

Ale-Eshaq added that Iran's trade with Iraq is a little bit different because some part of it is done with national currency rial and some part with suitcase and this is now impossible due to the Coronavirus; and some part of the money returns to the country via forex shops and some through private bodies which is actually different and they can be bartered with goods and sometimes the trade is done with Iraq national currency dinar or other currencies.

He emphasized the role of bartering system for trade between both states, saying that in case this system is launched, major problems of Iranian traders would be resolved and urged the Central Bank to taking advantage of its good relation with its Iraqi counterpart for raising the issue and talks with Iraqis because Iran currently needs raw materials and some parts for production units and if the bartering system is implemented, it is possible for Iran's forex revenues to return faster to the country.

On the trend of Iran's exports to Iraq, he said Iran's earning from exports to Iraq in the first half of the year was around \$3.5b while the figure was around \$12b last year. He further said Iran's exports in the first half of the year has declined by 20 percent comparing to the same period last year, reiterating that this decline is not just for Iran because the global trade has been affected by the virus and the global trade has slumped around 20 percent.

EGFI Ranks First Among Region's Islamic Funds

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Export Guarantee Fund of Iran (EGFI) has been ranked first in terms of performance among the region's Islamic funds for the second time, the EGFI head said.

According to Afrouz Bahrami, the rate of EGFI's services has grown significantly this year due to the development of activities and diversification of services in lines with the standards of developed countries.

The fund was ranked first among the countries of Amman Union due to a 200-percent growth in performance in 2019 and for the first time, the EGFI head was appointed as the chairwoman of the Amman Union, which is one of the world's largest export credit insurance organizations, Bahrami said.

The EGFI successes have been achieved while strong competitors such as Turkey with a capital of \$2 billion and Saudi Arabia with a capital of \$4 billion are among Islamic countries, the official stressed.

Iran has exported over \$10.87 billion of non-oil commodities during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21), of which about \$1.3 billion were done through the Export Guarantee Fund and by its supports, according to Bahrami.

Affiliated to the Ministry of Industry, Mining, and Trade, the Export Guarantee Fund of Iran has been established in order to expand and promote exports, to protect exporters against non-commercial risks, which are normally not covered by the insurance companies, and to guarantee credits used for export of such goods and services.



5 Tons of Postal Items Sent Abroad Daily

TEHRAN (IP) - Iran's Deputy Minister of Information and Communications Technology said that the Post Corporation sends at least five tons of packages abroad daily.

Deputy Minister of Information and Communications Technology Ramazan Ali Sobhanifar expressed at Iran Post corporation press conference held on the occasion of World Post Day: "Some scientists believe that Iran's post service is the first unofficial information system in the history of the world, and as

an official organization, it is more than three thousand years old."

"The originators of the post were Iranians and we are proud that this service has spread from Iran to the world," stated Sobhanifar. He also said that Iran Post corporation has progressed along with the advancement of technology, adding that Iran Post sends at least five tons of packages abroad daily.

Since 1969, October 9, the anniversary of the founding of the Universal Postal Union, has been designated as Post World Day.

South Pars Accounts for 75% of Iran Gas Output

TEHRAN (Shana) -- The director of the third refinery of the South Pars Gas Complex stated: South Pars Gas Complex is currently contributing to 75% of the country's total natural gas output.

According to the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC), Mohammad Shafi Moazeni told a meeting with regional executive and a group of officials in Bushehr province that the share of the complex in Iran's natural gas output would reach 82 percent in the near future.

He described the complex as a strategic facility in Iran which played an instrumental role in the country's energy production.

The director of the third refinery of South Pars Gas Complex underlined the importance of the complex in energy sustainability and creating welfare and security in the country, adding: "According to forecasts made in the near future, 70% of the energy mix of the country will be produced by South Pars Gas Complex."



FAO Supports Iran to Strengthen Capacity Of Stakeholders on Climate Finance

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - To provide an inclusive platform to address climate-related issues in Iran, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Department of Environment (DOE), as the National Designated Authority (NDA) of Green Climate Fund (GCF), partnered to bring together and build capacity of around 100 local, national and international stakeholders to discuss climate finance.

The engaged stakeholders, from the public sector, academia, international organizations, private sector and civil society, have been identified previously through a mapping exercise conducted jointly by FAO and DOE under the stakeholder engagement component of the project "Green Climate Fund Readiness and Preparatory Programme of the Islamic Republic of Iran."

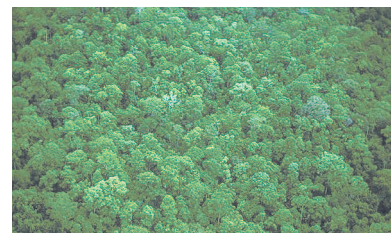
Thanks to an opportunity provided by FAO to connect different parties from Tehran, Bangkok, and many provincial capitals across the country virtually, the participants in this meeting shared their views on the country's institutional and technical capacities, existing challenges and steps forward to address climate-related issues.

The partakers also discussed the pooled recommendations on how to enhance the NDA's institutional capacity, amend the applicable rules and regulations, and formulate new policy priorities to both access and effectively utilize international funding resources to finance climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in the country.

"FAO is committed to developing inclusive mechanisms to ensure stakeholder's engagement. Consultative sessions like this as well as providing learning opportunities will increase the capacity of partners in order to secure the country's ownership to invest in climate change mitigation and adaptation measures," said Mr Gerold Bödeker, FAO Representative to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Highlighting the joint efforts put in action by FAO and DOE, Mr Bödeker asserted that the "country's ownership is a continuous process, and the role of the Department of Environment is key in driving institutional capacity development and stakeholder's engagement for strong ownership in addressing the climate challenges Iran is facing."

FAO, being the lead UN agency driving global efforts on sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture and rural development, offers technical expertise to member countries in supporting their efforts to plan, access to finance, implement and report on climate change adaptation and mitigation measures in agriculture and natural resources management.



SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT

PERMIT NO : 1399.3620

CALL FOR PUBLIC TENDER

(FIRST/SECOND PUBLISH) ONE STAGES TENDER

Subject of Tender:

Tender No.	Description
FP/11-99/078	P/F EMERSON EQUIPMENT
FP/11-99/079	P/F INGERSOLL RAND (RETENDER)
FP/11-99/080	P/F CATERPILLAR EQUIPMENT (RETENDER)

Tender descriptions:

The Tender holder	Registration No. through national electronic tendering system	Tender No. /Indent No.	Estimated value (Rial)
National Iranian Drilling Company	20/947/630	Tender No. : FP/11-99/078 Indent No.:01-22-9846001	34,000,000,000
	20/947/168	Tender No. : FP/11-99/079 Indent No.:01-22-9746021	8,616,000,000
	20/949/190	Tender No. : FP/11-99/080 Indent No.:01-27-9747004	5,177,388,556

Qualitative evaluation of tenderers

Method	Qualification process will be done in plain mode in offers opening session according to presentation of valid practice certificate / legal documents (certificate of corporation/ supply announcement up to latest changes) which should be related to tender subject.

Purchasing & Submitting

Tender Document Distribution by Company	The distribution of the documents will be started one day after the publishing of second advertisement and ended on the following tenth day thereof (24 OCT 2020)	
Tender Document Distribution by Company	Distribution Place	Hall No.:113, 1st floor, Foreign Procurement Dept., National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN 061-34148660
	Submitting Method	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt in the amount of 190,000 Iranian Rials under account number 4001114004020491(Shaba No. IR 520100004001114004020491) in name of "NIDC Incomes Centralized Fund" issued by I.R. of Iran Central Bank. Submitting format Request for the purpose of receiving Tender Documents.
Documents Receiving Method	Closing date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 35 Days after the last time of Purchasing.(30 NOV 2020)
	Address	Hall No. 107, 1st floor, Tender Committee, Operation building, National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN. Tel: +98-61-34148580 +98-61-34148569

Tender Guarantee

Value of guarantee	1/700/000/000 Rial / 6,502 Euro Regarding Tender No FP/11-99/078	
	431,000,000 Rial / 2,332 Euro Regarding Tender No FP/11-99/079	
	1/567,000,000 Rial / 8,658 Euro Regarding Tender No FP/11-99/080	
Type of guarantee	Bank guarantees or guarantees issued by non-bank institutions that obtain activity license from the central bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt under account number 4001114006376636 (Shaba No. IR 350100004001114006376636) in name of "NIDC saving account" by the central bank of Islamic Republic of Iran.	
Duration of credit & quotation	Tender Guarantee and quotation should be valid for 90 days and extendable maximum for one time in initial validity duration.	

(Foreign Procurement Dept.)

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

Maldives Ex-VP Ahmed Adeeb Sentenced to 20 Years

DHAKA (Dispatches) - A court in the Maldives has sentenced former Vice President Ahmed Adeeb to 20 years in prison for corruption charges related to leasing tropical islands for hotel development.

The 38-year-old, who pleaded guilty last month under a plea bargain, was also fined \$129,892 on Monday.

The Maldives Criminal Court charged Adeeb with embezzlement, money laundering and misuse of government authority among other offences, according to an order of Judge Hassan Saeed.

According to an asset recovery commission formed by the current government, the islands in the popular holiday destination were sold below-market prices. As a result, the government lost nearly \$259m.



Kyrgyz Police Use Teargas To Disperse Protesters

BISHKEK (Reuters) - Kyrgyz police used teargas and water cannon to disperse thousands of people demonstrating on Monday against the result of a parliamentary election, after some protesters tried to break into the government headquarters.

Gunshots and stun grenades could be heard as riot police with dogs, backed by several vehicles, moved into the central square in the capital Bishkek and the protesters retreated.

Two establishment parties supporting closer links between the former Soviet republic and Russia look set to dominate the new parliament after Sunday's election, which Western observers said had been marred by vote buying.



Maduro Gov't Scores Legal Victory In \$1b Venezuelan Gold Tussle



LONDON (Dispatches) - A legal battle over \$1bn worth of Venezuelan gold stored at the Bank of England (BoE) took a fresh twist on Monday after a British appeals court ruled in favor of the government of Nicolas Maduro by overturning an earlier High Court judgment in the case.

The Court of Appeal granted the Maduro-backed Banco Central de Venezuela's (BCV) appeal and set aside July's High Court judgment, which had found that the United Kingdom's recognition of opposition leader Juan Guaido as "constitutional interim president of Venezuela" was conclusive.

The BCV sued the Bank of England in May to recover control of the gold, which it says it will sell to finance Venezuela's response to the coronavirus pandemic.

The BoE has refused to release the gold, however, after the British government in early 2019 joined dozens of nations in backing Guaido on the basis that Maduro's election win the previous year had been rigged.

Monday's decision means the case now goes back to the High Court for it to determine more definitively which of the two rival leaders is in charge.

Monday's judgment said it was necessary to determine whether "(1) the UK government recognizes Mr Guaido as President of Venezuela for all purposes and therefore does not recognize Mr Maduro as President for any purpose.

"Or (2) HMG (the UK government) recognizes Mr Guaido as entitled to be the President of Venezuela and thus entitled to exercise all the powers of the President but also recognizes Mr Maduro as the person who does in fact exercise some or all of the powers of the President of Venezuela."

The BCV has said the proceeds from the sale of the gold would be transferred directly to the United Nations Development Program to procure humanitarian aid, medicine and equipment to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

Venezuela's opposition has alleged Maduro wants to use the money to pay off his foreign allies, which his lawyers deny.

Over the past two years, Maduro's government has taken some 30 tonnes from its local gold reserves to sell abroad for much-needed hard currency, according to people familiar with the operations and the bank's own data.

NATO Chief Tells Turkey to Help Calm Karabakh Conflict

ANKARA (Dispatches) - The head of NATO said Monday he expected Turkey -- a key ally of Azerbaijan -- to use its "considerable" influence to calm the conflict in the ethnic Armenian separatist region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg's comments in Ankara came as fighting between Azerbaijani and Armenian separatist forces entered its second week with at least 260 people killed.

"We are deeply concerned by the escalation of hostilities. All sides should immediately cease fighting and find a way forward towards a peaceful resolution," Stoltenberg said after talks with Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu.

"And I expect Turkey to use its considerable influence to calm tensions."

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has urged fellow Muslim Azerbaijan to press on with its campaign until it takes back lands it lost in a war in the early 1990s that killed 30,000 as Nagorno-Karabakh broke away.

He said moments before starting his own talks with the NATO commander that Azerbaijan was "responding to an attack and saving Karabakh from its occupation".

"We, Turkey, say that we are always on the Azerbaijan side," Erdogan said in a televised address.

"As long as the Karabakh issue is not resolved, it will not be possible to end the unrest and conflict in the region."



Trump Is Returning to White House

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Donald Trump has said he will return to the White House on Monday, as he immediately sought to downplay the threat of the coronavirus.

Trump's physician, Dr Sean Conley, on Monday again declined to say when the last time Trump tested negative for the coronavirus.

The timeline of when Trump last tested negative could shed light on who he may have been exposed to when he was possibly infected.

The president has been criticized for going to Bedminster, New Jersey for a fundraiser after aide Hope Hicks, who he had been in close contact with, tested positive.

Trump's physician, Dr Conley, told reporters that the medical team was in "uncharted territory" in terms of the therapies given to the president at this stage of infection.

"We're in a bit of uncharted territory when it comes to a patient that received the therapies he has so early in the course," Conley said, when asked about the timeline for Trump to be considered no longer in danger.

"So we're looking to this weekend. If we can get through to Monday with him remaining the same or improving. Better yet, Then we will all take that final deep sigh of relief," he said.

Belarus Opposition Leader Joins Berlin Protest

BERLIN (Dispatches) - Belarus opposition leader Svetlana Tikhanovskaya urged protesters to keep up their fight against strongman Alexander Lukashenko after she arrived in Berlin Monday for a meeting with German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

"This, our struggle, has not only united the Belarusians in our homeland but in the whole world," Tikhanovskaya told several dozen demonstrators waving red-and-white banners and placards in the German capital Monday evening.

Tikhanovskaya, who claimed victory in a disputed August 9 election, fled Belarus soon afterwards and has sought to rally international pressure on the Minsk regime, as protests continue on the streets of Belarus.

She met French President Emmanuel Macron in Lithuania last week, she was due to meet Merkel on Tuesday.

"We will talk about the situation in Belarus and I think we, two women, will always know what to talk about," Tikhanovskaya told AFP.

Merkel, whose country holds the rotating

presidency of the European Union, has said Germany does not recognise Lukashenko as the winner of the vote and condemned the government's violence against protesters.

"I learned today that the Belarusians in Berlin, but also in other German cities, hardly knew each other before," Tikhanovskaya told the crowd.

"But this summer, Belarus and Belarusians have united.

"We don't know how long this struggle will last but we need your help. The government has not heard us for 26 years and it does not hear us now," she added.

The United States and the EU hit Belarus officials with long-awaited sanctions on Friday, drawing an angry response from Minsk and its ally Moscow.

Tikhanovskaya only joined the political fray after her husband Sergei -- a popular blogger -- was barred from registering as a presidential candidate and arrested for allegedly plotting to overthrow the government.

The 38-year-old has met with leaders in Poland and Lithuania, but her talks with Macron have been the most high profile to date.



China Leads UN Call For U.S. to End Coercive Sanctions

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - China, Russia and two dozen other countries called on the United States and Western countries to end the use of unilateral sanctions, which they said make it harder to deal with Covid-19.

In a statement read by Chinese envoy Zhang Jun at the United Nations, they accused the United States of violating human rights, systematic racial discrimination and hindering development in countries it places economic sanctions on.

"The response to and recovery from COVID-19 requires global solidarity and international cooperation," the countries said in the statement.

"However, we continue to witness the application of unilateral coercive measures, which are contrary to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and International Law," they said.

"We seize this opportunity to call for the complete and immediate lifting of unilateral coercive measures, in order to ensure the full, effective and efficient response of all members of the international community to COVID-19."

The statement was signed by China, Russia, North Korea, Iran, Nicaragua, Venezuela and other countries against which the United States has placed punishing sanctions.

It was made to the UN General Assembly's third committee, which focuses on human rights and humanitarian affairs.

In the past four years Washington and the EU have accelerated their use of sanctions to punish countries for various behaviors, from Russia's invasion of Crimea, to North Korea's and Iran's nuclear programs, to misrule and rights abuses by the leader of Venezuela.

The sanctions can try to lock the countries or their entities out of the global, dollar-based trade system, and seize assets in certain jurisdictions.





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S/p, S, J
L.balcony
marble fl
Fully Furn

Shanon (adviser)

Niavaran Villa (\$4000)
1000sq.m
4bdrs, S/p
green yard
Nicely Furn

Parsian

Darrous (\$1600)
3bdrs, baclony, F.F

Apt (\$3000)
Kamranieh Apt
260sq.m, 4bdrs, S/p, S, J
balcony, pkg, Fully Furn

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

Niavaran (\$1800)
170sq.m, 3bdrs, F.F

Darakeh bldg (\$7000)
4storey, 20bdrs, pkgs

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Germany Will Avoid Lockdown for Industry

BERLIN (Reuters) - Germany will avoid another round of lockdown measures on businesses to contain the coronavirus pandemic, Economy Minister Peter Altmaier said on Monday as rising infections cloud the growth outlook for Europe's largest economy.

"There mustn't be a second shutdown. And as far as it's up to me, there won't be a second shutdown for industry," Altmaier told a business conference organised by the BDI industry association in Berlin.



Economists Growing Less Optimistic About Outlook for U.S. Economy

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - The road ahead for the U.S. economy looks rockier now than it did in June, according to a survey of economists released Monday.

While growth is expected to continue, a panel of 52 economists has lowered its forecast for the rate of growth for the last three months of this year and for 2021, the National Association for Business Economists said.

Economists cut their forecast for October-December growth to a 4.9% annual rate from their prior estimate in June of a 6.8% rate.

For all of this year, the economy will contract by a 4.3% annual rate.

The median forecast for real GDP growth for 2021 was lowered to a 3.6% annual rate, compared with a 4.8% rate forecast in the last survey in June. Slower growth will make it harder for unemployed workers to find new jobs. According to the survey, more than half of the economists think that between 10%-20% of jobs lost during the pandemic won't come back.

The economy recovered over the summer after the 31.4% decline in the April-June quarter, the largest on record.

Economist forecast growth at a 25% rate in the third quarter. But this was widely expected as the strong initial phase of the recovery that started in May.

Economists are divided over when the economy will return to pre-pandemic GDP levels, with roughly a third saying the second half of 2021, a third saying the first half of 2022 and a third believing it will be towards the end of that year. The economists think that the risks for the economy underperforming outweigh the risks it will do better than expected. The biggest concern is a second wave of the coronavirus.

There isn't much concern about a double-dip recession. Roughly half of the economists say the odds of a double-dip recession are below 20%. Only one out of eight panelists see the odds of another downturn above 50%. Economists expect the Federal Reserve to hold interest rates close to zero through 2021. More than 70% of economists said they didn't change their forecast for Fed policy, even with the central bank's announcement of a new strategy to allow inflation to run above 2% for some time.

Euro Zone Economic Recovery Floundered In September

LONDON (Reuters) - The euro zone's economic recovery faltered in September as the reimposition of some restrictions on activity to halt a resurgence in the coronavirus sent the bloc's dominant service sector into reverse, a survey showed.

Rising infection rates in the region, something a Reuters poll said last month was the biggest threat to the recovery, will concern policymakers who had hoped the bloc's economy was healing after contracting an historic 11.8% in the second quarter.

To support the economy, the European Central Bank plans to make 1.35 trillion euros of pandemic-related additional asset purchases and the European Union has announced a 750 billion euro recovery fund due to kick in next year.

But that didn't stop IHS Markit's final composite Purchasing Managers' Index, seen as a good barometer of economic health, falling to 50.4 in September from August's 51.9, close to the 50 mark separating growth from contraction.

It was dragged down by the PMI for services industries, which accounts for around two thirds of GDP, which slumped to 48.0 from August's 50.5, albeit slightly better than a preliminary 47.6 estimate.

"With the euro zone economy having almost stalled in September, the chances of a renewed downturn in the fourth quarter have clearly risen," said Chris Williamson, chief business economist at IHS Markit.

"Much will depend on whether second waves of virus infections can be controlled, and whether social distancing restrictions can therefore be loosened to allow service sector activity to pick up again."

Suggesting any pick up may take some time, demand for services fell in September and firms cut headcount for a seventh month. The new business index fell to 48.1 from 49.8.

Still, optimism about the coming year improved to levels not seen since before Europe felt the full brunt of the pandemic. The composite future output index rose to 60.5 from 57.8, its highest since February.

South Korea Factory Activity Shrinks At Slowest Pace in Eight-Months



SEOUL (Reuters) - South Korea's factory activity in September shrank at the slowest pace in eight months, a private survey showed on Monday, adding to signs that global demand is improving although second waves of coronavirus infections remain a threat to the economic recovery.

The IHS Markit purchasing managers' index (PMI) rose to 49.8, from 48.5 in August, the highest reading since January, but remained below the 50-mark threshold that separates contraction from growth for a ninth month.

Major sub-indexes continued to contract albeit at a softer rate, while factory production returned to growth for the first time in eight months.

"September data was encouraging ... Output returned to growth amid signs of improving demand conditions and some reports of the reopening of client businesses," said Shreeya Patel, economist at IHS Markit.

"However, not all is positive ... The combination of rising cases across key export destinations and subdued domestic demand weighed on operating conditions," she added.

Several European countries announced new restrictions to curb surging coronavirus infections, while several U.S. states continue to grapple with a rising number of virus cases.

At home, new virus clusters emerged at a church and a major political rally in August, leading to more than 1,800 infections and unprecedented social distancing measures.

The survey showed employment shrank for a 17th straight month and at a faster rate as firms did not replace employees who retired or voluntarily resigned.

While businesses remained confident in September, the degree of optimism eased slightly from a month earlier reflecting worries over the global economic downturn and persistent threat posed by the pandemic.

South Korea plunged into recession in the second quarter in its worst economic decline in more than two decades as the pandemic battered exports and social distancing curbs paralysed factories.

"South Korea's manufacturing sector showed signs of moving further away from April's nadir, but if subdued domestic and foreign demand persist the path towards recovery could be lengthy," Patel said.

China Says U.S. TikTok, WeChat Bans Break WTO Rules

GENEVA (Reuters) - China said at a World Trade Organization meeting that restrictions by the United States on Chinese mobile applications TikTok and WeChat are in violation of the body's rules, a trade official said.

The Trump administration has ordered download blocks on the two mobile apps and ordered ByteDance, the Chinese owner of TikTok, to sell its operations to a U.S. company, citing national security concerns. However, U.S. judges have questioned the government's case.

A representative for China said at the closed-door meeting on Friday that the measures "are clearly inconsistent with WTO rules, restrict cross-border trading services and violate the basic principles and objectives of the multilateral trading system," a trade official familiar with the matter, who did not wish to be identified, said. The official said the delegate described the U.S. failure to provide concrete evidence of the reasons for its measures a "clear abuse" of rules.

In the same meeting, the United States defended its actions, saying they are intended to mitigate national security risks, the trade official said. The government has previously said data from American users is being accessed by the Chinese government.

The office of the U.S. Trade Representative had no immediate comment. An official at the Chinese mission to the WTO did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The Chinese statement will not have any consequences on its own although China could launch an official legal complaint about it to the Geneva body.

Pakistan Invites Bids for Record Six LNG Spot Cargoes for December

ISLAMABAD (Reuters) - Pakistan will ramp up spot buying of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the international market, seeking up to six cargoes for December, its procurement subsidiary said on its website, as the country prepares for a potentially crippling gas shortage.

December and January see the largest spike in demand for gas in Pakistan, but this year the demand-supply shortfall will be greater on the back of higher consumption and diminishing indigenous supply, authorities believe.

A source in Pakistan LNG Ltd (PLL), which handles LNG imports, told Reuters that six spot cargo purchases for delivery in December would be the most in a single month by the country.

An advertisement by PLL said the country was seeking the cargoes, each of 140,000 cubic metres, in six delivery windows and Nov. 2 is the deadline for submission of bids.

Pakistan has long term LNG agreements in place, including one with Qatar, but has also been active on the spot market since August.

The country has advertised tenders for delivery of two cargoes in August, three in September, two in October and three in November.

In a press conference last week, Pakistan's Minister for Petroleum Nadeem Babar said the country was headed towards a major gas shortfall in December and January, and blamed dwindling indigenous gas supply and rising demand.

Forging Resilient Regional Supply Chains and Connectivity

By: Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana

Participation in global and regional supply chains has been one of the most reliable economic growth strategies, especially for developing countries in Asia and the Pacific. Smooth and efficient connectivity in both trade and transport has been indispensable to the region's pursuit of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Yet, containment measures for the COVID-19 pandemic have significantly interrupted production, transport, and distribution of essential goods. They exposed vulnerabilities in supply and underscored the costs of border procedures for transport and trade, which require extensive human contacts and increase the risk of infection. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which worked hard to enter supply chains, saw their livelihoods gone.

As COVID-19 crisis forced us to catch up with the digital future much faster than usual, there have been tremendous opportunities offered through digitalization. Trade and supply connections still functioned during lockdowns as customs and other government institutions not only streamlined their procedures but also turned to contactless and paperless trade. SMEs surviving the crisis did so because of their agility to speedily move to digital business operations. Businesses in textile, apparel, footwear, transport, and other sectors have almost entirely converted to digital operation.

Though a partial digital transition has occurred, supply chains face challenges in economies grappling with inferior quality and costly digital connectivity. The public sector now must catch up with the private sector to speed up moving government services to digital platforms. Creating enabling legal environment and investing in hard digital infrastructure must be prioritized in COVID-19 recovery packages.



Businesses, supported by their associations, are keen to adopt environmental sustainability principles as an innovation mindset by taking opportunity of global reshoring and redrafting of supply chains. Re-enabling trade and investment and strengthening connectivity can only be done with coordinated and collaborative government actions at the regional level based on mutual trust, solidarity, and sustainability.

Trade, connectivity and global supply chains, particularly sustainable and green trade, is not a zero-sum game. To achieve that, platforms on trade and transport initiatives to rally regional solutions to cross-border challenges are essential.

Developing appropriate provisions in Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs) can address crises like the pandemic. Despite countries in Asia and the Pacific having more than half of the world's RTAs, not many have specific provisions to govern trade policy in situations like COVID-19 pandemic. With a relatively weak multilateral trading system, a "free for all" behavior has developed, with many countries imposing trade restrictions without

any regard for the international rules or those under the RTAs they have signed. The ongoing UN-wide initiative to develop model provisions in RTAs to address a pandemic-like crisis is a significant step forward.

Enhanced support for trade facilitation, trade digitalization and development of paperless and contactless trade remains a priority. Accelerating trade digitalization is key to progress. The Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific is expected to cut trade costs by 25 per cent.

Finally, we must move forward rapidly to achieve digital, resilient, and decarbonized regional connectivity. The platforms provided by the Asian Highway Network and the Trans-Asian Railway Network have already brought countries together to capture and analyze their policy responses and impacts on regional connectivity. This resulted in concrete proposals on collaborative actions to improve its pandemic response in Asia and the Pacific.

Despite standing at a difficult crossroads, we can ensure that the path ahead is stronger, smoother, and well-connected than before. Through ongoing partnerships among the United Nations family, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is working together with member States and the private sector to accelerate achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and realize a sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 crisis.

Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana is the United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Iran's Int'l Flights Grow 64%

TEHRAN (FNA)- The number of international flights of the Islamic Republic of Iran's airlines in the Iranian month of Mordad (July 22 to August 21) has increased 64% compared to the previous month.

The airlines of the Islamic Republic of Iran carried 177,511 people on domestic routes and 141, 44 people on international

routes in the month of Mordad, showing 37% and 30% growth respectively. The national carrier, Iran Air, also had a growth of 26% in Mordad compared to the previous month by carrying 2,216mln tons of cargo. The total number of flights of the Islamic Republic of Iran Airlines in Mordad was 2,938 sorties, 13% higher than the previous month.



Rich Nations Tighten Firehose of Aid as Virus Outlasts Early Efforts

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - If Round One of the coronavirus relief effort was the economic equivalent of "shock and awe," new plans being developed by the world's biggest economies for more assistance to businesses and consumers are taking a narrower and more tactical approach.

Governments around the world went in big, hard and fast in their initial efforts to blunt the economic hit from the global pandemic, drumming up roughly \$10 trillion in spending plans through June, according to International Monetary Fund estimates. Central banks leveraged that up further with rate cuts, bond purchases and a raft of other credit programs.

But with President Donald Trump in quarantine after testing positive for COVID-19 and a resurgence in cases in Europe and the United States, there is an acknowledgment that the recovery is far from complete. Government and central bank officials are now devising more targeted follow-up programs they hope will help the industries and people still displaced in the global downturn.

With tens of millions remaining unemployed, this second round of government aid will still be counted in the trillions of dollars. Major industries remain under stress from the restrictions imposed last spring to try to halt the coronavirus, and public trust in routine activities like restaurant dining has not been restored.

This time around, officials are betting the virus can be suppressed without reverting to broad lockdowns, ideally allowing a global economic recovery to largely proceed. Their gamble will determine whether the world heads into 2021 poised for recovery and able to take full advantage of any successful vaccine - or climbing from an even deeper hole.

Rising caseloads "put governments in the unenviable position of trying to limit the damage to public health, while avoiding stringent measures to limit economic and social life," Kevin Loane of Fathom Consulting wrote in a recent note.

"All leaders will be forced to come down more clearly on the side of mitigation or suppression. Suppression was the choice for almost all in the spring. It is unlikely that it will be again."

In tandem with those efforts to suppress the virus, the global economic response last spring was unprecedented as major central banks and governments approved emergency programs to funnel cash to those whose jobs were at risk, keep credit cheap, and back a broad set of financial markets and economic sectors with bond purchases and loans.

The IMF's estimated \$10 trillion of global fiscal spending is still perhaps \$2 trillion short of the hole the coronavirus has blown in the world economy, with global output seen shrinking 4.9% this year. The IMF will issue updated forecasts and policy advice ahead of its Oct. 12 to 18 fall meetings.

The world's major central banks are not expected to do much more given the aggressive steps they have already taken, though the U.S. Federal Reserve and the Bank of England are still discussing more bond purchases and, in the BOE's case, the possibility of using negative interest rates.

That leaves it to fiscal authorities to fill the gaps, crafting assistance for those who still need it on the supposition economies will not be forced back into broad hibernation.

Yet if the thrust of policy last spring was to get money out fast, with few strings attached, the aim now is more tailored.

In the United Kingdom, it involves swapping a blanket wage replacement program for one backing "viable" jobs - a step officials acknowledge will leave some people stranded but aid transition to a post-pandemic world.



"The sources of our economic growth and the kinds of jobs we create will adapt and evolve to the new normal. And our plan needs to adapt," British finance minister Rishi Sunak said recently. "As the economy reopens it is fundamentally wrong to hold people in jobs that only exist" through government support.

As new COVID-19 cases hit record levels in France, the government provided extra cash only to businesses that were put under new limits, including gyms, theaters and cafes in the hardest-hit regions.

While Germany is also seeing caseloads increase, its economic response has been more forward looking, with programs already set to extend through the end of this year and in some instances through 2021.

With the economic recovery still fragile and fears of a resurgence in infections looming, Japanese officials say they are ready to deploy further fiscal stimulus to cushion the blow, though likely scaled back from earlier efforts.

In Washington, stalemated talks over more spending have resumed between Democratic leaders and the Trump administration. However Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin has said he wants any new spending targeted to small businesses and to programs for "kids and jobs," rather than spread broadly and with few strings attached as it was in the \$2.6 trillion CARES Act last spring.

Republicans want to limit new spending to perhaps half of the \$2.2. trillion proposed by Democrats last week.

There is no guarantee of a deal of any size, though many economists feel the U.S. recovery will likely slow if one is not approved.

Moody's Analytics chief economist Mark Zandi said if no further government help is approved this year, the U.S. economy may contract in the fourth quarter and into next year, turning what began as a faster-than-expected recovery into renewed downturn and a return to double digit unemployment.

"Here is where the shoe could drop," Zandi wrote.

Lira Slide Towards 8-Per-Dollar Highlights Turkey Economic Pressure Points



LONDON (Reuters) - The Turkish lira's move towards the 8-to-the dollar mark will compound its 25% slide this year, amplifying existing pressures on companies and the broader economy.

Below are three charts illustrating the pressure points for Turkey, where the currency is enduring its eighth straight year of losses, having lost more than 80% of its value in the past decade. Turkey's external public debt burden is deemed manageable but its companies and financial institutions face hefty repayments of nearly \$10 billion in the next two months.

"Further lira depreciation would distort corporate balance sheets more and thus would have negative impact on investment prospects," said Ugras Ulku, head of emerging Europe research at the Institute of International Finance (IIF). More currency weakness would constrain companies' ability to increase investment at a time when stronger capital spending is crucial in order to improve productivity, employment, competitiveness and exports, Ulku added.

Price pressures are a sore point for Turkey, which has a history of hyperinflation - overcoming it just 17 years ago. Below-inflation interest rates have failed to check price growth while offering little incentive to foreign capital, further weakening the currency in a country with a persistent current account deficit. Data on Monday is expected to show inflation rose further in September.

"We expect the depreciation of the lira to be the main driver of the increase in inflation," Goldman Sachs' Kevin Daly told clients. In fact, last month's figures likely underestimated the pace of core inflation, given tax cuts in various sectors, he added.

International oil prices have dropped around 40% since the start of the year, providing some relief to importing nations. Yet lira weakness means Turkey has reaped just around half that benefit. Any further lira weakness would wipe out more of that gain.

ECB Cuts Italian, Spanish Debt Purchases

FRANKFURT (Reuters) - The European Central Bank bought less Italian and Spanish government debt in the past two months as market pressure on both indebted countries stayed low despite a resurgence of COVID-19 cases, data showed on Monday.

The ECB bought 26.8 billion euros of Italian public-sector bonds and 18.7 billion euros of Spanish government debt through its stimulus programmes in August and September, the data showed.

That was slightly more than their quotas, but the deviation from was smaller than during the spring, when a surge in borrowing costs had forced the ECB to the rescue of the two struggling countries.

Italy was the euro zone country where the first wave of the pandemic took the heaviest toll. It was later overtaken by Spain, which currently counts 32,086 coronavirus fatalities and 789,932 confirmed cases - the worst in Western Europe.

In total, the ECB bought 126.8 billion euros worth of state debt under its Pandemic Emergency Purchase Programme in the past two months, plus 38.3 billion euros under its regular Public Sector Purchase Programme.

Velayati...

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Accordingly, the Ministries of Industry, Mine and Trade, Agriculture Jihad, Intelligence, Justice, and Punishment are obliged to implement the system of distribution and monitoring of commodity prices within the framework of this program and in coordination with each other, and in a systematic situation by providing basic commodities, commodity prices, especially carefully control and manage items that are supplied in the preferred currency.

Rouhani cited the presence of observers and the creation of transparency in the form of a comprehensive system in the field of distribution and pricing as some of the current necessities for price control, saying: "Despite all the restrictions, the government is determined to continue to bring the price of basic goods to the consumer at the price set at the preferential rate by implementing this program."

He stressed the importance of cooperation and coordination between the judiciary and trade unions to control prices. The President went on to point out that the dimensions of the economic war imposed by the United States on the Iranian people and the struggle and resistance against this war in the current situation are obvious and tangible.

He added: "As the more precise dimensions of the war imposed years later became clear, the scope of the economic war imposed on the country will become clearer to the people in the future." Rouhani said that the Iranian nation, after decades of hostility from the United States, has no expectations other than what it does today, adding: "This nation does not expect countries that inadvertently accompany these sanctions to participate in the US anti-humanitarian actions."

Referring to the effective measures taken by the relevant agencies, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the legal institutions of the government and the Central Bank to realize the rights of the Iranian people, the president called for increased and more comprehensive efforts to release the country's blocked foreign exchange reserves.

Atheism or Hypocrisy...

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In Azerbaijan homosexuals are allowed to stage rallies or protests and even to have same sex marriage, and Aliyev's government support them (It is not still forgotten that just a couple of months ago thousands of angry people in Tabriz staged a protest rally in front of Azerbaijan Consulate to react to this event). This is while holding mourning processions during Ashura and Arbacen of the third imam of Shiites are barred. In Azerbaijan, playing adhan (call to prayer) or Holy Quran from loudspeakers of mosques are forbidden and if it is not observed it is considered as an anti-security act. In this country, saying prayers in the public and state places are forbidden and heavy penalties await the offenders (Some senior commanders in Azerbaijan Army have been expelled just for saying prayers). Women are obliged to use their photos without hijab in their passports or ID cards. Should we accept optimistically the claim of Shiism of this government? Or do we accept the Shiism claim as an apparent and obvious hypocrisy which is undeniable? Suppose that we have not had and do not have any peaceful relation with Armenia which is a non-Islamic country and we call them atheist but how can we not see the goals of Turkey behind this dispute?



Turkey's interest for active presence in the Caucasus Region, and cooperation and proximity with Azerbaijan can be analyzed as the hegemonic goals and its major goals can be enumerated clearly. First Turkey with supporting Azerbaijan has a strategic approach towards the Caucasus Region for creating a strategic balance for competition with regional actors like Russia and Iran and attaches a special attention to extending its joint border with Iran. Secondly, economic goals of Turkey in the Caucasus Region for providing its energy through developing and expanding the oil pipeline (Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan) and cooperation with Azerbaijan have had a far-sighted process and it is part of its Neo-Ottomanization strategy in the region. Thirdly, Turkey's motivation for entering the South Caucasus Region is accompanied with a nationalism and ideological approach. Turkish language, religion and common faith have caused Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to have a special view blended with support of Azerbaijan in the Karabakh issue. Now it is quite clear some of expenditures which are spent by Pan-Turkism in Iran are financed through which avenues.

One should intelligently notice that the prevailed condition in Caucasus Region is in a way that countries which are struggling with crises, like Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan, have to rely on regional and trans-regional powers and actors for pursuing their goals and relations because of their incapability in managing the crisis and settling the disputes. So the success of Turkey in this region will not ever be to the benefit of the region.

The reason that Turkey does not intend to convince Azerbaijan to accept Iran's mediation as the sheikh (leader and elder) of the region lies in this issue that the unconstructive role of international actors like the OSCE Minsk Group (the U.S., Russia and France) is very calculated and bold for settling the dispute due to their differences over their interests, and continuation of the dispute and above all success of Azerbaijan will never be to the benefit of a sustainable peace in this geography.

Iranian Bank's...

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This is not the first legal battle of Iranian financial institutions in European courts. Sanctions have been imposed on Iranian banks over allegations that they were involved in the development of Iran's nuclear energy program and had circumvented embargoes on Tehran.

In most cases, the General Court of the European Union has scrapped the sanctions on grounds that the EU had not presented any justification for freezing the assets and economic resources of the Iranian banks, but the EU has later reimposed them by using what it has usually described as new legal grounds. In 2017, Iran's Tejarat Bank filed a lawsuit with the European Court of Justice to seek damages for the losses it incurred as a result of several years of sanctions by the European Union. In 2019, the UK government reached an agreement with Bank Mellat to settle a \$1.6-billion damages claim brought by the Iranian bank after 10 years of negotiations. The bank said later the money pocketed was actually around \$100 million.

Britain's Supreme Court had ruled in 2012 that sanctions imposed on Bank Mellat over alleged links to Iran's nuclear program had been unlawful, referring the case to London's High Court, where the Iranian bank was seeking damages over the impacts of the sanctions on its reputation and goodwill in Britain and internationally, and other losses they had created.

Iranians Obligated...

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He said nearly 4,800 COVID-19 patients are receiving in-patient treatment at hospitals. "Of that number, 948 patients are under medical care at ICU's," he said.

The deputy minister said medical personnel are facing a shortage of beds, and that medical devices are worn out as they have been worked too hard. Health Ministry spokeswoman Sima Sadat Lari said on Tuesday that some 227 more Iranians have died from coronavirus disease (COVID-19) over the past 24 hours. The health ministry spokeswoman said on Tuesday that with the 227 new deaths the country's total COVID-19 death toll mounted to 27,419. Yesterday Health Ministry spokeswoman Sima Sadat Lari said that some 227 more Iranians have died from coronavirus disease (COVID-19) over the past 24 hours. The health ministry spokeswoman said on Tuesday that with the 227 new deaths the country's total COVID-19 death toll mounted to 27,419.

Ecuadorian Caicedo Wins Giro Third Stage

ROME (Dispatches) - Geraint Thomas lost more than 11 minutes as Ecuadorian Jonathan Caicedo won the Giro d'Italia's third stage on Mount Etna on Monday.

Former Tour de France champion Thomas seemed to recover despite falling off his bike before the day's racing even started, which caused the peloton to be neutralised, but failed to keep up with the peloton with less than 30 kilometres to go.

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PSG Sign Portugal Midfielder Pereira on Loan

PARIS (Dispatches) - French champions Paris Saint-Germain on Monday announced the loan signing of Danilo Pereira from Porto.

The 29-year-old midfielder, who has won 39 caps for Portugal, has signed until June 30, 2021, with an option to buy.

Pereira made 202 appearances for Porto, scoring 19 goals and winning the Portuguese league twice (2018 and 2020), the Portuguese Supercup (2018) and the League Cup (2020).

Djokovic Keeps French Open Title Bid on Track

PARIS (Dispatches) - Novak Djokovic defeated Karen Khachanov in straight sets to make the French Open quarter-finals for the 11th consecutive year while Sofia Kenin escaped trouble to also clinch a spot in the last eight.

Top seed and 2016 champion Djokovic won 6-4, 6-3, 6-3 against Russian 15th seed Khachanov to draw level with Rafael Nadal on a record 14 quarter-final appearances in Paris. Djokovic faced his toughest assignment so far but Khachanov was unable to derail his bid to become the first man in half a century to win all four Grand Slam titles twice.

The Serb hit 44 winners and has yet to drop a set in the tournament, losing only 25 games in four rounds. He improved his record in 2020 to 35 wins against just one loss.

"It was a very even match, perhaps more difficult than the result showed," said Djokovic, who is chasing an 18th Grand Slam title. He admitted to suffering an "awkward moment of deja vu" after unintentionally hitting a ball which smashed into the head of a line judge while trying to return serve.

The incident came just weeks after Djokovic was defaulted at the US Open in New York for swiping angrily at a ball which hit a female line judge, standing just behind him, in the throat. He will face Spain's Pablo Carreno Busta, the man who benefited from Djokovic's U.S. Open disqualification, or German qualifier Daniel Altmaier for a spot in the last four.

Stefanos Tsitsipas overcame an eye problem to become the first Greek man to reach the last eight of the French Open with a 6-3, 7-6 (11/9), 6-2 win over Grigor Dimitrov. The 22-year-old will now take on Andrey Rublev in a repeat of the recent Hamburg final which was won by the Russian.

Fifth seed Tsitsipas has won 12 successive sets at the tournament having been two sets down to Jaume Munar in the opening round. Rublev, the 13th seed, also advanced to the quarter-finals for the first time after battling past Marton Fucsovics of Hungary 6-7 (4/7), 7-5, 6-4, 7-6 (7/3).



In a match which featured 12 breaks of serve, the 22-year-old Rublev had been a break down in the second and third sets. He also had to save three set points in the fourth.

Australian Open champion Kenin recovered from a set down against Fiona Ferro, the last home player left in the singles draw, to advance 2-6, 6-2, 6-1.

The 49th-ranked Ferro, who won on clay in Palermo in August, threatened an upset as she reeled off six games on the bounce to grab the opening set.

But Kenin, who was taken to three sets in the first two rounds, stormed back to move into a quarter-final match-up with either Tunisian 30th seed Ons Jabeur and Danielle Collins.

Their tie was rescheduled for Tuesday due to rain that restricted play to just Court Philippe Chatrier for much of the day. Two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova returned to the last eight at Roland Garros for the first time since 2012.

Seventh seed Kvitova, who missed last year's tournament due to an arm injury, defeated China's Zhang Shuai 6-2, 6-4 and will next play German veteran Laura Siegemund.

Siegemund, 32, advanced to her first Grand Slam singles quarter-final after defeating former junior champion Paula Badosa of Spain 7-5, 6-2.

Mourinho Hails Historic Win for Spurs at United

MANCHESTER (Reuters) - Tottenham Hotspur manager Jose Mourinho hailed his team as history-makers after they hammered 10-man Manchester United 6-1 at Old Trafford.

The loss was United's joint worst of the Premier League era -- equalling their 6-1 defeat by Manchester City in 2011.

"It is history for Tottenham, history for my boys and I cannot deny it is also history for me," said Mourinho after his side superbly exposed the limitations of his former club.

"I won many times in this stadium, mostly with Manchester United but also with Chelsea, Real Madrid and now Tottenham," added the Portuguese manager.

Spurs' win was even more impressive coming in their fourth game inside a week and after they went a goal down after two minutes.

"The squad made it, Chelsea, Maccabi and Manchester United - the squad made it. If the squad made it, my club structure made it because that made it possible to have this squad. We came here with fresh legs with some players injured and some in the stands. We can face competitions.

"The message this week was that together and with this squad we can make it.

"To concede in the first minute we could have been destroyed. I feel very happy, it is an honour for us to have this unique record in this stadium," he said.

Although United were reduced to 10 men at 2-1 down, Mourinho focused on the way his team had dominated before the 28th minute dismissal of Anthony Martial.

"We were the best team. They couldn't stop us when we were 11 v 11. We were winning already, we were missing chances. The performance was very, very impressive," he said.



Bonucci, Chiellini Set to Join Italy Squad

TURIN (Dispatches) - Juventus defenders Giorgio Chiellini and Leonardo Bonucci should be able to join up with the Italy squad ahead of Nations League matches despite their club self-isolating because of two positives among its employees, the Italian football federation announced Monday.

"In compliance with guidelines from the health

authorities, Giorgio Chiellini and Leonardo Bonucci will undergo the relevant assessments and must obtain authorisation before joining up with the squad," the federation said.

After the two positive tests at Juve, club players and staff were put into self-isolation on Saturday, a procedure that allows them to train and play, but prevents them from mixing with people from outside that bubble.

Italy coach Roberto Mancini has named a 34-strong squad for three games in eight days.

Italy have a friendly against Moldova in Florence on October 7 followed by two Nations League matches, against Poland in Gdansk on October 11 and the Netherlands in Bergamo three days later.

Barca Post 97m Euros Loss for 2019-20 Due To COVID-19

MADRID (Reuters) - Barcelona have announced a loss of 97 million euros (88 million pounds) after tax for the 2019/20 financial year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, while a projected estimate of breaking the one billion euro mark in revenues was also scuppered.

The Catalan club also said in a statement here on Monday that they had made revenue of 855 million euros, 14% down on the 990 million they posted in 2018/19, while their overall net debt has more than doubled to 488 million euros.

The club said 47 million euros of losses was due to lost matchday revenue, 35 million to reduced club shop sales and 18 million on stadium tours, with further losses expected until fans can return to stadiums in Spain.

Predicted revenue for 2020-21 is 791 million euros.

The players took a wage cut in order to help combat the deficit while football was suspended due to the coronavirus.

The club have also sold players who were on lucrative contracts, such as Luis Suarez, Ivan Rakitic and Arturo Vidal, in the close season in a bid to get salary expenditure within La Liga guidelines, which directly relate to projected income.

This has also meant a fairly quiet transfer window for new coach Ronald Koeman, with local media saying Olympique Lyonnais' Dutch forward Memphis Depay could only join if they sold forward Ousmane Dembele, who has been linked to Manchester United.



Platini Backs Best Fit Giroud For France

PARIS (Dispatches) - Former France captain and coach Michel Platini defended Olivier Giroud ahead of Wednesday's friendly with Ukraine, saying the out of favour Chelsea forward "has the quality" to lead the French line.

Giroud, 34, has played just 17 minutes out of Chelsea's three Premier League games this season with Frank Lampard preferring Tammy Abraham or Timo Werner but is tipped to feature in France coach Didier Deschamps' starting line-up in spite of criticism for his overly physical style.

"Giroud, if he plays up front it's because more than anything else he has the quality to play centre-forward," former UEFA president Platini told AFP.

"And if Deschamps plays him, it's because he thinks Giroud deserves to play. It doesn't interest me that he is criticised.

"Deschamps knows how to do his job, he knows what he should do and if he thinks Giroud is the best fit, then he plays him. After all, if Giroud's criticised, we have all been criticised, even Pele!" Platini added.

Giroud is in line to make his 100th appearance for les Bleus this week and is likely to line up alongside Barcelona's Antoine Griezmann in a game where the visitors will be without six players who are in self-isolation due to coronavirus cases at their club Shakhtar Donetsk. Griezmann has scored just 15 times in 51 games since joining the Catalans from Atletico Madrid in July 2019.

Platini said the Barca attacker would benefit from featuring in an attack with a physical presence as was the case at Atletico with Diego Costa.



Alba Sidelined With Hamstring Problem

MADRID (Dispatches) - Barcelona full-back Jordi Alba has picked up a hamstring injury, the club said on Monday, raising doubts about his availability for the Clasico meeting with Real Madrid later this month.

Barca did not say how long Alba, who was not called up by Spain for their upcoming triple header, will be missing, but local media reported it was likely to be at least three weeks.

"Tests carried out this morning have confirmed that Jordi Alba has a muscular injury in his right hamstring. He is out and his recovery will determine his availability," the club said on social media.

Alba was forced out in the second half of Barca's 1-1 draw at home to Sevilla on Sunday, with new signing Sergino Dest replacing him.

